

Feb. 25

The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and, by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—Humboldt's Cosmos.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1856.

PRICE (UNSTAMPED) FIVEPENCE.

Review of the Week.

WHEN the Norman kings found their Barons getting troublesome at a distance they called them up to Winchester or elsewhere, in order that they might put them under the screw of the royal presence and authority. When JOHN felt the strength of the Barons he summoned them to be put under the force of lying. When CHARLES the SECOND could not muster face to utter the pretences for asking money, he took to the device of reading the royal speech; and that great *coup* has been further improved by developing the forms of the House in both chambers, to a trellis work which fences against any pressure from without. Never did session open with a better use of these defensive works—the speech, the etiquettes of administration, and the forms of Parliament. We all expected that when Parliament should meet, we should have some light thrown upon the progress of the war, the position of the Allied interests in Asia, our relations with France, the state of the Baltic, the progress of the negotiations, and the intended arrangements in the Congress of Paris. Idle folly! The royal speech is a becoming rebuff for our impertinent expectation. It indeed goes beyond any that we have ever had for responding to public expectancy with a mockery of reply that tells nothing. It informs us of what we knew already—to wit, that Sebastopol has been taken, and that there is to be a conference at Paris, at which a treaty of peace will be negotiated; the "preparations" for war continuing until the preliminaries be signed—not the operations. Practically, the armistice has commenced already.

Then the speech informs us of great boons for home—some touching up of the Limited Liability Acts of last session, an improvement in the Scotch Commercial Law, Law Reform, Suppression of Local and Passing Dues upon Merchant Ships, a Treaty with Chili (for facilitating the import of vinegar?), and the Treaty with Sweden (which seems likely to result only in the encouragement of turpentine). The one matter-of-fact information which we get out of the speech is, that her MAJESTY intends to appeal to "the manly spirit and en-

lightened patriotism" of the country, to continue paying war taxes, while Ministers are compromising the war in a peace.

Surely, some wag of a statesman must, at the last moment, have put the wrong draft of the speech into the QUEEN's hands? The real speech, of course, contains some allusions to the truly great subjects that the people anxiously ask the Crown and Government to enlighten them upon. Suffice it just to mention the heads of that information without which our interests are being disposed of while we remain in the dark. These subjects, at the least, are—Kars; America; the actual conditions by which the Western Powers are resolved to stand; and at home, the long, long delayed Reform Bill, which Ministers have admitted to be necessary for giving to the people their just share of the suffrage; and national education; besides such secondary subjects as abolition of Church-rates, railway reform, and administrative reform. Of these not a word. Some member of the Commons ought to move for a copy of the real QUEEN's Speech, if only to rescue the royal dignity from its false position before the public, in being made the instrument for publishing a solemn gibe, which meets the representatives of an anxious people with stale news.

If the Speech told us nothing, Ministers did not tell us much more. Their systematic principle appeared to be to withhold; and it is remarkable that the leaders of the Opposition connive in that convenient practice of official life—to withhold. What about Kars? ask Members in both Houses. It shall be told by-and-by. Why was not America mentioned in the Speech? For no want of respect, answered Lord CLARENDON and Lord PALMERSTON, but because the correspondence is so bad that they thought it best to say as little as possible about it; the Central American question, however, being referred on our side to arbitration. On all these things—in the suspension of the war with Russia, and the commencement of a war with America,—in the conclusion of a treaty of peace with the enemy, or the abrogation of a treaty with our Western ally—Ministers promised to lay information before Parliament when the mischief shall be done. Mr. ROEBUCK wanted to get the in-

formation sooner. "No!" says Lord PALMERSTON, "we will not throw the responsibility on Parliament;" and the Ministers expectant will not refuse to aid the actual Ministers in excluding Parliament or the country from any knowledge how its affairs are conducted.

Manchester is degenerating into routine, and we challenge Mr. BRIGHT's attention to the fact. It is getting the annual custom for the members to have some kind of *soirée* of a peculiar fashion. In other places, members of an extraordinary popular pretension meet their constituents openly. It is a stale taunt that at Manchester the meetings are held by some kind of exclusive admission; but, although stale, the remark is true, and the speeches of the members are falling into a kind of pattern. Mr. MILNER GIBSON annually makes an agreeable speech, flattering his constituents with the sense that they have a gentleman who is out of office voluntarily, because he will not join the set in office, while he makes damaging allusions to the office-holders, damaging allusions to the war, yet adroitly contrives never to commit himself to an outrance against Whigs or war. Mr. BRIGHT, too, works his standing subjects—the impolicy, cost, and horrors of the war, and the impertinence and horrors of the press. To the tragedy of the war indeed, he lends variety by presenting it in the comic vein, telling some capital anecdotes by various hands, SYDNEY SMITH, ROBERT WALPOLE, and other *Punch* writers before their age. It is still true that thousands upon thousands of human beings have been sacrificed,—that our war expenditure has probably exceeded a hundred millions,—and that we really have as yet got very little for our money. Mr. BRIGHT upholds cotton politics as opposed to old Lord politics, but he confesses that he is ashamed of what he meets with in the press, what he hears in railway stations, where people most do congregate.

In short, Mr. BRIGHT is not with the nation. Sir EDMUND LYONS is. When Sir EDMUND returns to his native place—Christchurch, in Hampshire—it is a *fête* for all classes. He is received as if he belonged to one family throughout the place. Everything he says is the object of admiration.

They admire him individually for the dash that he has displayed as a seaman, as a traveller, as a diplomatist, as a war captain. They admire him for being admired by the brave. They admire him for having been in the Crimea, and for speaking up as he does, on behalf of the army, its gallantry, its English spirit, and its deeds of bravery at Alma, Balaklava, and before Sebastopol. For he, a sailor, whose professional reputation was not at stake, saw what was done there, and vouches for its being up to the standard of English character.

The inhabitants of Westminster have met in public meeting in St. Martin's Hall, to protest against any unsatisfactory and dishonourable peace, or the conclusion of an armistice before the signing of the preliminaries of peace. Somehow the demonstration, which might have been useful, was mismanaged, and its result is such as to serve no party, unless it be the peace party. It will do no harm to ministers, since it ended in an extravagance. The Honourable SMYTH VEREKER, an Irish Tory at large, appeared in association with Mr. WESTERTON, the liberal agitator of Westminster, and Major LYON, a representative of Irregulars in the East—a combination which at least promised to give us something irrespective of party. But another section of the inhabitants of Westminster broke in, in the shape of JAMES FINLEN, the ebullient young Red Republican, advancing a proposal that Lord PALMERSTON and his colleagues should be impeached, with a view to the decapitation of Prince ALBERT. At least such is the object to be inferred from the amendment, which the meeting carried.

The New York mail brings us the intelligence that the Government of General PIERCE has demanded the recall of Mr. CRAMPTON, the British Minister at Washington, and we are unable to state that the report is untrue. On our side, it is intimated semi-officially that our Government has apologised, which is sufficient reparation, and that, in point of fact, no wrong was done. This implies that the apology was of a very doubtful kind, since men seldom apologise very humbly if they are perfectly certain that they have done nothing amiss. At all events we are left to infer that the apology has been neutralised by a justification; if so, it is implied that the British Government could resume through Mr. CRAMPTON, Mr. HOWE, and Messrs. HERTZ and STROBEL, the same process of raising men in the United States against the will of the Republic which was attempted and stopped. If our conjecture be at all correct, it follows that our Government has again drifted to the verge of a war with America; and in the same half-official way the Americans are told virtually that if they do not take care the tremendous British navy will come over, sweep their commerce from the seas, and rake their coasts. There is every prospect, however, that the subject will be vigorously taken up in Parliament, and that an explanation will be extorted.

Glancing to the far East, we have a very pretty scandal got up on the subject of the Honourable CHARLES A. MURRAY's relations with the Court of Persia at Teheran. There has been a person called MIRZA HASHIM, who was formerly employed by the Persian Government, and subsequently by the British Embassy. This man was the object of peculiar and personal hatred to the Sadr or Prime Minister of the Shah. Failing to arrest HASHIM in his sanctuary, learning that Mr. MURRAY intended to send him to another post 1,000 miles off, Sadr then seized the man's wife as a material guarantee; for strange to say, while some of our British husbands would only be too glad to realise that kind of divorce—see the police reports *passim*—the barbaric Persians evidently believe that to seize a man's wife is equivalent to chaining one of

his limbs! The quarrel became embroiled; the Ambassador and the Sadr stood upon their rights, the Shah sustained his Premier, and the British Minister struck his flag—sacrificing his mission as Envoy, to the chivalrous duty of championing the helpless. Scandalmongers insinuate that Mr. MURRAY had some special interest in the fair Persian; on which his defenders reply that the lady is now the solace of a third husband, and that the ambassador intended to send her 1,000 miles away—facts which render the insinuations of a gallant motive improbable. We are, however, to hear more of this story of MURRAY EFFENDI and the fair Persian.

Yet further East, another drama has come to its due conclusion. The kingdom of Oude has been suppressed, and its territory is now merged in the English possessions by which it is surrounded. There was indeed no reason for maintaining it as a separate state—every reason for the present measure. The reigning king was only the adopted heir of his predecessor. He was the *roué* of a class happily unknown in the West; his Court was a casino—nay, it is libelling any respectable casino to draw a parallel; the Court officers were chosen for their baseness—the Court ladies for their degradation; and fantastic cruelty dictated the customs of the Government by executions and torture being of hourly occurrence. The best men in the country were made to eat dirt. The King coquetted with miserable rebels like our THOM of Canterbury; the British Resident and troops could only support his authority at the cost of fighting against their own real friends; the State was inverted against itself, and to assist in maintaining it was to assist in prostituting the authority of England to be the instrument of the most abandoned of wretches. The mission has been put down; and one interruption to the uniform course of English rule throughout the territory of Hindostan has been removed.

The Manchester poisoning inquiry continues to develop itself; and the trial of PALMER appears to be definitively removed from Staffordshire in order to remove the accused from the influence of local prejudice. This is only just. A remarkable reaction has taken place in his favour; we see journals and judges suddenly remembering the duty of caution in accepting evidence beforehand. Very proper, no doubt; but when Lord Chief Justice CAMPBELL, besides telling those who discuss the subject that they are liable to punishment, expects that all will hold their tongues out of deference to his punctilios, he goes beyond the province of the Bench, and deserves to be told not to be impertinent.

THE QUEEN AND THE HON. MISS MURRAY.—The *Athenæum* has a paragraph explaining the true state of the case with reference to the reported retirement of the Hon. Miss Murray from the Court. It appears (according to this statement) that Miss Murray, having visited America, formed new opinions on the anti-slavery question. "This change of view Miss Murray communicated to the Queen, who replied to her Lady in Waiting, if we are rightly informed, by some very wise and very womanly counsels. Unhappily, the Royal letter missed its object; and before Miss Murray had the advantage of reading her august friend's advice she had pledged herself not to observe that discreet silence on a most intricate and vexed problem which is necessary in persons holding public situations. Miss Murray has the courage to avow her opinions; but as she chose to take part in a discussion that every day threatens to rend the Union, her retirement from the Queen's household followed naturally. These are the simple facts. There was no intention to dedicate the book to her Majesty. Her Majesty never saw the proof-sheets. We cannot suppose that the Queen meant to rebuke Miss Murray—as the paragraph makes her—for forming an honest opinion. Miss Murray's retirement from the Court must be assigned to a political, not a personal, motive. We see nothing in it save what is creditable alike to sovereign and subject."

THE WAR.

THE apprehended Russian attack on Kertch has been attempted. On the 9th ult., the Russians advanced over the ice, with a view to attacking the place, but the alertness of General Vivian disappointed the project. No details have yet been received. The gulfs of Odessa and Kinburn are still frozen, but the temperature in the Crimea has become milder. A despatch from the East says that a short cannonade has taken place between Fort Constantine and the steam frigates of the allied fleet. In the camp, it was thought that an attack was preparing against the northern forts; but the cessation of the firing all at once disappointed the general expectation. An experiment as to whether the batteries of Fort Constantine on the sea-side had been dismantled to increase the fire on Sebastopol, was alleged as the cause. A Greek spy has been arrested, and given over to a military commission.

The progress of affairs in Asia presents but few subjects of interest. The *Invalide Russe* says that intelligence from the Oriental shores of the Black Sea informs them that Iskender Pacha was seriously wounded on the 23rd of December. Lieutenant-General Prince Andronikoff had been removed from his post as Governor of Tiflis. Some of the Turkish prisoners taken at Kars had arrived there. According to the latest news from Asia Minor, Halim Pacha and General Stewart were engaged in organising the defence of Erzeroum. Hostile preparations are being carried on at Constantinople with the utmost activity; and the War Department in Sweden has drawn from the Treasury 1,100,000 francs, to be applied to the urgent defence of the kingdom. But these forecastings may be rendered unnecessary by the Peace Congress at Paris. A few particulars of interest from Odessa and its neighbourhood are contained in correspondence from the continent, where we read:—

"The Imperial Commercial Bank of Odessa has issued assignats of the value of one silver rouble. It need hardly be said that there is a sad dearth of silver coin. The corn bought by the Russian Government from the subjects of neutral States has not yet been paid for, although most urgent demands for payment have been made. The troops are still employed in constructing strand-batteries. Thousands of men are employed on the fortifications of Nicholaieff, where floating batteries are about to be made. The northern side of Nicholaieff is still unfortified. There are strand-batteries at several places on each bank of the Bug. Cherson is still in a dilapidated state. The weather is now very mild at Odessa."

The war has come to a veritable pause, and diplomatists will soon be laboriously planning to prevent its resumption.

A CRIMEAN RETROSPECT.

NEWSPAPER correspondents now and then manage to acquire information which is calculated to interest Governments as well as the great public, and such is my case at present. After the fall of South Sebastopol, the Russian army was in such a terrible state of demoralisation and distress that the whole of the Crimea must have inevitably fallen into the hands of the Allies if they had followed up their advantage. The state of things was so alarming, that it was at first resolved to evacuate the Crimea immediately, but the Allies remained inactive, and two divisions of the Grenadier corps had time to make their way to the theatre of war. On the arrival of these troops, the Russians again took courage, and in a council of war, at which the Emperor was present, it was resolved to maintain possession of the Crimea. The world is much surprised that Russia is willing to conclude peace on such terms, but it will perhaps be less so when it has read the following singular intelligence, which has the merit of being perfectly authentic. No language can describe the sufferings of a part of that Russian army to which was intrusted the defence of the coasts of the Baltic. The body of it was composed of militiamen, who were not only miserably clothed and equipped, but literally half-starved. The poor wretches were affected by a singular malady. Vast numbers of them had the *tobucht* (raving madness, or perhaps *delirium tremens*, is meant), and they were not relieved from their sufferings until the cruises of the enemy had disappeared. "The Allies, who are the greatest blunderers on the face of the earth, raised the blockade too soon, and the consequence was that vast quantities of stores and provisions arrived from Memel and Dantzig as soon as their backs were turned." While the unfortunate militia were left to suffer the pangs of hunger, the greatest care was taken to supply the Imperial Guard with everything that it could desire.—*Times Vienna Correspondent.*

WAR MISCELLANEA.

GENERAL DE MARTIMPREY, Chief of the Staff of the army of the East, left for the Crimea on Thursday week, after the close of the sittings of the Council of War.

GENERAL LEVAILLANT, Governor of Sebastopol, who arrived at Marseilles in the last Levant packet, is to be replaced in his command by General Ferrey, son-in-law of Marshal Bugeaud.

THE AMOOR RIVER.—The forts erected by the Russians at their settlements on the Amoor river have been so strengthened, according to a San Francisco paper, that the English observing officers admit them to be impregnable. The supply ships of the allied fleets have been wrecked, so that provisions and naval stores were scarce. The Governor of Siberia has sent some handsome presents to the officers of the American barque *Palmetto*. The barque *John Baring*, of Baltimore, has been seized by the English at Castro, on incontestable proof that she had been loading stores for the Russians; and the case will be decided before a naval board.

THE PEACE.

The following despatch from Count Buol to the Austrian Intercourse at Constantinople was received by the latter on Sunday, the 13th ult. We give the precise text, as it serves to indicate the pressure exercised by the Austrian Government upon the Court of St. Petersburg to induce Russia to accept the proposals "purely and simply":—

"Vienna, Jan. 13, Noon.

"The Russian reply not being a pure and simple acceptance of our propositions, I have, by order of the Emperor, declared to Prince Gortschakoff that it would be my duty (*que je serais dans le cas*) to send him, on the 18th of this month, his passports, if within that term another resolution should not have been taken by his court. Gortschakoff despatched yesterday a courier, and has also employed the telegraph to inform his Cabinet of this communication.

"Buol."

The prospects of a speedy termination of hostilities continues to be the one absorbing topic of the day. A despatch from Paris, dated January 31st, states that the ambassadors of the Allies were expected to sign the protocol containing the preliminaries of peace on the following day (yesterday) at Vienna. It is whispered that England and France disagree about their interpretation of the fifth point (which, it will be recollected, reserves several matters for consideration); but it is contended that the original draught of the proposals was revised in London, and that therefore the English cabinet is bound in honour to accept the terms as they now stand. England firmly maintains that Russia must not again be permitted to fortify the east coast of the Black Sea, and Austria and France propose that the question should be left in abeyance until the peace conferences have met. It is said that the plenipotentiaries will meet in Paris on the 17th of the present month, and that the debates will probably be brought to a conclusion by the 25th.

Prussia will be excluded from the Conferences, on account of her not taking part in the war. The *Morning Post* says that "it is not unlikely that, if a Treaty of Peace be concluded, Prussia may then be invited to give her signature to a document of such European importance; but in its framing she can take no part." A story is current that Austria means to invite the Germanic Bund to express its concurrence in her propositions to Russia; but this is not authenticated. The Conferences will be held in Paris. Count Buol and M. de Hubner are still mentioned as the representatives of Austria, and Count Orloff and Baron Brunow as the envoys of Russia. The choice of Baron Brunow (who was the Russian ambassador here up to the time of the war), was, it is stated, submitted by Russia for the approval of the Allies—an approval which was at once accorded. On behalf of Turkey, the names mentioned are, the present Minister at Paris, Mohammed Djemil Bey, and Fuad Effendi. M. d'Azeglio will represent the Court of Turin. Sardania, however, says the *Constitutionnel*, "will not occupy exactly the same position as the remaining allies of Turkey. Although called upon to sign a definitive treaty of peace as a belligerent power, Piedmont will not participate in debates which do not touch either directly or indirectly her interests." This limitation is attributed by some writers to the persevering spite borne by Austria against the only constitutional kingdom of Italy.

The Paris correspondent of the *Daily News* refers to some gossip now floating about Paris to the effect that, at the close of last autumn, Austria pressed the Allies to accept terms equivalent to those now agreed on; and that France all but consented, while England peremptorily refused. The Government of Napoleon then, in a tone of the greatest courtesy, friendliness, and even deference, reminded England that, if the Austrian proposals were not accepted, the war would

become one of extremity; that "a new understanding must be come to, and the original stipulation that neither France nor England was to gain any private advantage as the result of the war must be reconsidered. England, it was either said or insinuated, may think the destruction of a rival naval power in the Baltic a sufficient compensation for her sacrifices, but France has no interest in such a consummation, and indeed many Frenchmen think her interest lies the other way. The sum of this communication, as I hear it described, was that France by no means refused to go on with the war on the scale which would be necessary for the next campaign, but that at this point of the discussion she would be glad to know what she was to get by it, and how far she might calculate upon the support of England in asserting her legitimate claims to consideration whenever peace should be made. However, it appears, and it is certainly not to be wondered at, that the English Government, seeing the drift of the French interrogatories, shrunk from taking upon itself the responsibility of entering into an engagement to support France in an encroachment upon Prussian territory. Instead, therefore, of giving any direct answer to the insinuations contained in the French despatch, the answer sent from London was that, "upon reflection," the English Government would accept the Austrian propositions."

We also read in the *Daily News*:—"The Marquis de Larochejaquein's pamphlet, entitled 'The Question of the Day,' is now in the hands of the Diplomatic Corps at Paris. The *quondam* Legitimist endeavours to demonstrate the necessity for peace, by the following reasons:—1. The object of the war—the protection of the Ottoman empire—is attained. 2. The continuation of the war will have no other result than to serve the personal interests of England. 3. England wishes to achieve the complete destruction of the Russian navy; but that is not the interest of France, for the latter may one day need the co-operation of the Russian fleet. 4. Russia ought to be allowed to develop her power freely in Asia. The writer's position as senator alone gives any interest to the hostility which he displays against England."

Russia, according to a statement in the *Debats*, has concocted a scheme for evading the fifth point. She has accepted that point, says the French paper, "like the others, but she believes herself included as a belligerent Power in the ranks of those who are to form the particular conditions, over and above the four guarantees, necessary to the interests of Europe. This right, she says, belongs to her as it does to France, Turkey, England, and Sardinia, which are belligerent Powers; whilst it could not be claimed by Austria or Sweden, which are Allied Powers, but have taken no active interest in the war, nor by Prussia as a neutral Power."

Everything in Paris is described as *couleur de rose*; and it is now asserted that even the Archduke Constantine is extremely mild in his disposition, and that he is even more disposed to peace than his brother, the Emperor. It is said that certain civilities have passed between France and Russia. The Czar, if we may believe report, has expressed a wish that the Conferences should be held at Paris, because of his great esteem for the sovereign of France; and it is also asserted that, in answer to a letter from Alexander to the Emperor of Austria, the substance of which he desired should be communicated to the Emperor Napoleon, the latter has addressed a very friendly communication to Francis Joseph, by whom it has been communicated to Alexander.

THE RUSSIAN ACCEPTANCE.

The following is a translation of the circular issued by the Russian Government to its diplomatic agents, in which it announces the acceptance of the Austrian proposals. This document is dated St. Petersburg, January 19:—

"Public opinion in Europe has been strongly excited by the intelligence that propositions of peace concerted between the allied Powers and Austria had been transmitted to St. Petersburg through the intervention of the Cabinet of Vienna.

"Already the Imperial Cabinet, upon its side, had made a step in the path of conciliation, by pointing out, in a despatch bearing date the 11th (23rd) of December, published in all the foreign journals, the sacrifices which it was prepared to make, with a view to the restoration of peace.

"This twofold proceeding proved the existence on either side of a desire to profit by the compulsory cessation imposed by the rigour of the season on military operations, in order to respond to the unanimous wishes which were everywhere manifested in favour of a speedy peace.

"In the despatch cited above the Imperial Government had taken for basis the four points of guarantee admitted by the Conferences at Vienna, and had proposed, with regard to the third point—which had alone led to the rupture of the Conferences—a solution which differed rather in form than in substance from the one put forward at that epoch by the Allied Powers.

"The propositions transmitted to-day by the

Austrian Government speak of the same fundamental proposition—that is to say, the neutralisation of the Black Sea by a direct treaty between Russia and the Porte, to regulate by common agreement the number of ships of war which each of the adjacent Powers reserves the right of maintaining for the security of its coasts. They only differ appreciably from those contained in the despatch of the 11th (23rd) of December by the proposal for rectifying the frontier between Moldavia and Bessarabia, in exchange for the places on the Russian territory in the actual occupation of the enemy.

"This is not the place to inquire if these propositions unite the conditions necessary for insuring the repose of the East, and the security of Europe, rather than those of the Russian Government. It is sufficient here to establish the point, that at last an agreement has been actually arrived at on many of the fundamental bases for peace. Due regard being had to this agreement, to the wishes manifested by the whole of Europe, and to the existence of a coalition the tendency of which was every day to assume larger proportions, and considering the sacrifices which a protraction of the war imposes upon Russia, the Imperial Government has deemed it its duty not to delay by accessory discussions a work the success of which would respond to its heartfelt wishes.

"It has, in consequence, just given its adhesion to the propositions transmitted by the Austrian Government as a project of preliminaries for negotiations for peace.

"By the energy of its attitude in the face of a formidable coalition, Russia has given a measure of the sacrifices which she is prepared to make to defend her honour and dignity; by this act of moderation the Imperial Government gives at the same time a new proof of its sincere desire to arrest the effusion of blood, to conclude a struggle so grievous to civilisation and humanity, and to restore to Russia and to Europe the blessings of peace.

"It has a right to expect that the opinion of all civilised nations will appreciate the act."

THE PEACE PARLIAMENT AT MANCHESTER.

Messrs. Bright and Milner Gibson met their constituents at Manchester on Monday evening, according to annual custom, in order that they might give an account of their stewardship in the past, and explain their policy for the ensuing session of Parliament. The Corn-Exchange, where the meeting took place, was crowded to excess. Mr. G. Wilson, the chairman of the late Anti-Corn-law League, presided, and, after a brief speech, brought forward Mr. Milner Gibson, who adverted to the part he had taken in connexion with the removal of the penny newspaper stamp, and denied that there was any fear of the physical force of the East extinguishing the civilisation of the West. He urged a close union of the Liberal party under the old motto of Earl Grey—"Peace, retrenchment, and reform," and sat down amidst much cheering.

Mr. Bright then rose, and was greeted with loud applause. He at once proceeded to discuss the question of the proposed peace, and the terms on which it was designed to conclude it. Whatever terms might be acceded to, he believed that Russia would be left a great power, that the nationalities would still remain oppressed, and that the ruin of Turkey would be rather accelerated by our intervention than retarded. He had no desire to conserve the Mahometan rule in Europe; but he was sorry that, under a pretence of succouring the Sultan, we had in fact been leading to his ruin. What a groom once said of a sick horse might be said of Turkey—it is "lingering fast." The terms of peace he highly approved of, because he had reason to believe they would lead to a pacification. Their general effect was much the same as that of the terms agreed to by Russia last April at the Vienna conferences. Sixty years ago, the Empress Catherine of Russia proposed that Moldavia, Wallachia, and Bessarabia should be made into a separate and independent state; and now it is highly probable that the two former Principalities will be so consolidated. But he did not believe that their independence would in the least degree curb the power of Russia; and, with respect to the "rectification" of the Russian territory by means of taking from her a portion of Bessarabia, that, as the *Times* itself had admitted, is more an Austrian than an English question. Then as to the "neutralisation" of the Black Sea—Russia had offered at the Vienna Conferences to reduce the number of her war ships, upon Turkey doing likewise, to a point at which there could be no umbrage; and this is what we are now prepared to accept, though, masking it under another name, we are endeavouring to cheat ourselves into believing we have got a great gain. But Russia is to unite with France, England, and Austria in a treaty by which those Powers will undertake to respect as inviolable the territory of Turkey. Well, Russia offered to agree to a treaty of that kind last April. As to the alleged duplicity of Russia, how was it that the eminent statesmen assembled at Vienna in the spring—the greatest

diplomats in Europe—all admitted that Russia had so fairly met by negotiation the propositions she had adopted as preliminaries, that her offers ought to have been accepted? Mr. Bright then glanced over the losses in men that each of the belligerents have suffered. That of England he placed at 50,000; of France and Turkey, 100,000 each; of Russia, 250,000. He added:—"As we have abolished the Decalogue, and the Sermon on the Mount, and all such antiquated prejudices, I suppose I am not to speak of the loss of 250,000 Russians. They did not volunteer like our men; they were dragged from their homes under the despotic system of government under which they lived, and they have alien in what appeared to them a sacred and glorious cause—in defence of the soil of their own country against invaders from the West. Lord Palmerston congratulates the people of England that, however originally the English army has suffered, we have the greatest satisfaction of knowing that the Russian army suffers far more. Well, that may be so; but I am of opinion that these 250,000 Russians reckon for something on the tablet of the recording angel, and that I, as a professing Christian man, in considering the cost of this war, cannot exclude the Russians any more than the Turks, or the French, or the English, from my sympathy." He would say nothing of Sardinia—"that poor little country which has been dragged into this dismal business." He had sympathised with Sardinia's struggles for liberty; but, in connexion with the war, he feared there was some weak place in her administration. Then, as to the pecuniary loss—a question which he feared some people consider quite as much as loss of life—England had spent £100,000,000 sterling; and all because in 1854 we blundered into a war, and in 1856 we blundered out. France had spent an equal or a larger sum, and Russia probably £50,000,000. And, even suppose we had utterly destroyed Russia, would not our success react on our commercial and manufacturing interests? Then there was the wanton destruction of grain in the Sea of Azof—grain which had much better have been left to feed our hungry; and there was the hardening effect which war has had on the hearts of all men, even including the ministers of Christianity—including, also, the Poet Laureate, who, though a gentleman of great refinement of manner and of mind, and the author of poetry which will live as long as the language, had written a poem which his friends are anxious should never be mentioned, and which descends to slang of almost the grossest character. Returning to the facts of the war, Mr. Bright asserted that Russia now possesses a greater number of prisoners, and a greater amount of territory belonging to the enemy, than the Allies possess. Lord John Russell had remarked that the policy of attending to the balance of power in Europe had been the policy of this country since the time of William III. "But," said Mr. Bright, "there are a thousand other things, of which both I and Lord John Russell have a great abhorrence, which have come down from a very much longer period back than the time of William III." The *Morning Post* observed that anti-war politics were "cotton politics." But cotton politics had given this country more comfort and happiness than all the lords that ever were created. For these lords were but an illustration of the saying of an old writer, that an ass hooded with reverend purple, so that you see not "his too ambitious ears," will pass for a cathedral doctor. Are not the ministers of the United States quite equal to ours, though they are not chosen from among lords? Never has a nation been ruined where there have not been statesmen and old lords going back to their William the Thirds. The public press of England—and more especially the *Times*—Mr. Bright denounced as an immense imposition on the people; and he concluded by alluding to his own political conduct. "Nothing," said Mr. Bright, "is more easy than to swim with the stream. For a time it is often very profitable. It leads men in this country often through much dirt to much honour (a laugh); but I don't choose to take honours in that way. It requires courage and fortitude to go against the stream; but, if a man's convictions are in that direction, what is the course he ought to choose? I have endeavoured to take this course. I know very well, and you must know, that there are steeples of Alma in morals as well as on the field of battle and of blood." Mr. Bright sat down in the midst of loud and sustained applause.

General Thompson, Mr. J. Heywood, M.P., and some others, briefly addressed the meeting, which concluded with three cheers for Messrs. Cobden, Gibson, and Bright.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM. MEETING ON THE FALL OF KARS.

THE Administrative Reform Association held a meeting at the London Tavern, on Saturday last, to take into consideration the circumstances connected with the fall of Kars. The chair was occupied by Mr. Morley, who, in his opening speech, said they had been called together to demand inquiry. He added that there might be a feeling of indifference on the

subject of Administrative Reform; that many of the Liberals, as well as the Tories, were found "pooh-poohing" the question; but that the objects of the agitation were plain enough. Mr. Brown, the secretary, then read a memorial to the Queen. This document recapitulated the charge brought against Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, to the effect that he had neglected the applications of General Williams for assistance. It asserted that the provisions at Erzeroum might have been obtained for the relief of the garrison at Kars; that the English fleet and the Turkish Contingent remained inactive; that General Beatson and the Anglo-Turkish troops vainly besought to be sent to the succour of the besieged city, and were systematically neglected by our ambassador at Constantinople; and that the advance of Omar Pacha was delayed until it was of no avail.

Mr. Gassiot moved that the memorial be adopted and signed for presentation to the Queen. He said he feared that he was not exactly carrying out the principles of Administrative Reform; that, being a mercantile man, he was not the right man in the right place; and that he was not quite sure that he was speaking on a subject which he thoroughly understood. The chief point in his speech consisted of a charge against Prince Albert of influencing the appointments of military men. The late Brigadier Mayne, he said, had been summoned from India, where he held an important appointment, to take a position in the Anglo-Turkish contingent, for which his experience of Mahometan soldiers peculiarly fitted him; but that the appointment did not take place because it failed to meet with the approbation of Prince Albert. He concluded by advising members of Parliament to resist the fascination of Lord Palmerston's *soirées*, and to remain independent.

Mr. A. B. Richards asserted that the British Commissioner who was employed in sending the Caucasian tribes, informed them that, in the event of their aiding Omar Pacha, France and England would not recognise the independence of those states. "It is evident," said Mr. Richards, "that the object is to decimate the army of Turkey, and to strangle Turkey herself." He added that it was asserted Lord Stratford de Redcliffe had said General Williams should perish in Kars.

Mr. Lindsay, M.P., read a letter from a Brigadier-General in the Turkish Contingent, complaining of the jealousy with which the officers from the Indian service are regarded, and of the general mismanagement of affairs in the Crimea. The speaker commended to the Association, as a subject which they ought to inquire into, "the secret influence at present exercised over the executive." Mr. Lawrence hoped that the inquiry would be granted, and that it would lead to improvement.

Mr. Morley, in conclusion, stated that a bill had been prepared by the Association for the reform of the Civil Service, which would entirely sweep away all Governmental patronage.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

RAILWAY REFORM.

A MEETING of railway proprietors resident in Liverpool, Manchester, and the adjoining towns was held on Monday, at Liverpool, for the purpose of hearing a statement from Mr. Malins. There was a limited, though influential, attendance, and the chair was occupied by Mr. Lawrence Heyworth, M.P., who observed that he agreed with the observations of Mr. Malins at the London meeting a few days previously, with one exception. He dissented from that gentleman's opinion that the extension of branch lines is not unprofitable to original proprietors. To him (the chairman) it appeared that this is precisely the point from which the evils come. With a different system, he believed that railway proprietors would now be receiving a remuneration of ten per cent. for their money.

Mr. Malins said that the distrust of the public arose in great measure from a belief that there is no distinction between capital and revenue accounts; and, if such were the case, as they all knew full well it was, a mere fatal error could not be conceived; for, unless a distinct mode of operation were adopted, a great part of the railway capital would be applied to revenue purposes. He could not over-estimate the importance of setting this matter right. The public men of this country pride themselves that they do not hold a single railway share, but they will not hesitate to invest in foreign debentures of all kinds. If this state of things were not stopped, the large surplus capital of the country going out would produce disastrous results; for, in such a case, the balance in the Bank of England diminishes, the rate of discount rises, exchanges turn against them, what is called the "bank-screw" is applied, prices come down, and wide-spread ruin, such as occurs every five or seven years, such as they had in 1847, and again recently, follows. It was not a question of individual profit, but of national safety and welfare.

Another grievance was the goods-carrying monopoly enjoyed by certain houses. Mr. Malins cited the case of a friend who, having to forward 1,500 bales of

Manchester goods by the railway, could not do so until he had paid a Manchester house 1s. a-bale.

After some other gentlemen had addressed the meeting, a committee was appointed, to co-operate with the London committee.

The meeting of railway proprietors held at London on the 22nd ult., and adjourned, was resumed on Wednesday, when a report was read, of which the following were the chief passages:—"Your committee purpose, with a view to a rapid and efficient organisation of the association, to obtain, with all convenient speed, lists of the shareholders in the various lines, when a direct application will be made to every individual to enrol himself a member of your association. Your committee recommend that an annual payment of half-a-guinea shall constitute membership. Your committee have also considered the question of local associations, and are of opinion that their establishment will be eminently useful." Mr. Malins, the Chairman, announced that the association would receive the support of many large shareholders and several members of Parliament. A motion approving the objects of the meeting was unanimously carried; and several gentlemen were nominated to form a council.

ADMIRAL LYONS "AT HOME."

Sir Edmund Lyons was on Monday presented, in public, with an address of congratulation by the inhabitants of Christchurch, Hampshire, on the occasion of his visiting that town, of which he is a native. He arrived there on Sunday, and took up his quarters at the house of his cousin, Admiral Walcott, M.P. On the following day he was presented with the address by his host and cousin, on a platform which had been erected in the centre of the town, which was gaily adorned with streamers, &c., and loud with bands of music. The reading of the address was often interrupted by the loud applause of the bystanders; and after Sir Edmund Lyons had replied with much emotion, the company lunched at the King's Head hotel, where Lord Malmesbury presided, and spoke of the high services rendered by their guest to the country, and of the difficulties, in the way of prejudice, hasty censure, and faction, which commanders have to contend against. He also alluded to the Duke of Wellington's unsuccessful efforts to amend the military system of this country, and of his going down to the grave "in sullen silence, weary of warning, and weary of giving advice;" and his Lordship repeated the old accusation against the people of England "that they are in the chief degree blameable for our Crimean disasters, by reason of their parsimoniousness in military matters."

Sir Edmund Lyons, in returning thanks for the toast of his health, gave a recapitulation of his Crimean experiences. He said that in the course of their expedition to the Sea of Azof, they had intercepted a letter from the Emperor of Russia, in which he emphatically declared that he would almost as soon see the Allies in his palace at St. Petersburg as in the Sea of Azof. Of the advance of the English at the Alma, Sir Edmund said that General Canrobert told him afterwards that he could only compare it to an English red brick wall supernaturally lifted from the ground and propelled forward, so steady, so unwavering, and so irresistible was the attack. Our failure on the 8th of September, the Admiral excused by saying that every step we took was enfiladed by the enemy's batteries, and that, from various circumstances, we were unable to push our approaches near to the works of the Redan. "There is another circumstance, also," added the Admiral, "which is not generally known, but of the truth of which I assured myself by asking General Niel the other day in Paris. When the French made their unsuccessful attack on the 18th of June, it was discovered afterwards that they had only spiked the enemy's guns imperfectly, which in their retreat were unavoidably turned upon our allies. A more positive order on this subject was subsequently issued, and on the 8th of September all the guns in the Malakoff were too effectually spiked, and thus rendered useless to repel the advance of the enemy's hordes into the rear of the Redan. It was utterly impossible to withstand the overpowering numbers that rushed in. But I glory in being able to say that never was British courage more conspicuously displayed than on that day."

IMPEACHMENT AND THE BLOCK FOR MINISTERS.

A MEETING of the inhabitants of Westminster was held on Wednesday in St. Martin's Hall, Long Acre, "to protest against the conclusion of any peace on terms inconsistent with the honour and dignity of this country." The audience, consisting chiefly of tradesmen and artisans, entirely filled the hall. The chair was taken by Mr. Charles Westerton, of ultra-Protestant notoriety; and a letter from General Sir De Lacy Evans was read, highly approving of the objects of the meeting, but excusing himself from attendance on the ground that on the next day he should be speaking on the subject in Parliament. The Chairman, after alluding to the gross mismanagement of the early stages of the war, and expressing his opinion that the people of England will not accept a peace "at any price," introduced the Hon. Charles Smyth

Vereker, who moved the first and only resolution:—"That it is the opinion of this meeting that to conclude an armistice until the preliminaries of peace are signed would be at variance with the interests and wishes of the British people, and that they consider no treaty will be satisfactory which does not secure to the Allies an indemnity for the expenses of the war, and which does not guarantee the integrity and independence of the Turkish empire." After a few speeches had been delivered, Mr. James Finlen, a Chartist, moved as an amendment, "That this meeting has no hope that an indemnity for the expenses of the war will be exacted from Russia, or that terms of peace which England ought to accept will be agreed on, unless the Ministers who have entered upon the present negotiations are deprived of office and impeached." (*Cheers and uproar.*) Mr. Hart, in seconding this amendment, asked: "Shall the people who once took a king into open court, tried him before his country, dragged him to the block, and rolled his head on the scaffold, shrink from doing justice on Ministers? (*Cheers and uproar.*) This (Jan. 30th) is the anniversary of the day when that spectacle was offered to the world in this city, and let it at least be a worthy anniversary of it. Standing in the presence of centuries, in which the power of England has mightily increased, let us at least say we are the sons of our ancestors, and that we will not shrink from calling crime crime, whether it be committed from the throne of the prince or the hut of the peasant. And, whenever that verdict is found, sentence and execution shall follow." (*Cheers and hisses.*) The speaker proceeded to charge Lord Palmerston with betraying Poland, Hungary, and Circassia, and with confiscating Cracow. "Recognised as a trickster," he added, "despised as a shuffler, and hated as a turncoat, the Premier had been elevated into power by the powerlessness of every other man; and now that one man, having gathered the whole nation into a net, was about to sacrifice the ally of England and to betray his country." (*Cheers and derisive laughter.*)

The meeting was also addressed by Mr. S. Rolland, Mr. James Corbett, Mr. W. J. O'Connell, and Mr. Lawrence; and eventually the amendment of Mr. Finlen was put and carried by a large majority. The proceedings, which lasted several hours, then terminated.

AMERICA.

The disagreement between the United States and England still drags on its tedious course; and again there is talk of an open rupture and of the possibility of war. The accounts of the actual state of affairs, however, are very various. According to one, Mr. Crampton has dined with the President at Washington, which looks like a reconciliation; according to others, the President has not repeated his original demand for the removal of our Minister; according to a third, the Washington Government threatens, if the removal be not conceded, to withdraw the exequaturs of Mr. Crampton, Mr. Barclay, Mr. Mathew, and Mr. Rowcroft; according to a fourth, Mr. Crampton has "retired," on finding that he would not be permitted to remain, but that, in the event of his "dismissal," England would have had no further intercourse with the United States, but have handed his passports to Mr. Buchanan. With regard to the Central American question, it is rumoured that England, rather than engage in a war with America, will recede from her protective over the Bay Islands and the Mosquito shore.

The latest accounts state that Mr. Buchanan has actually demanded the recall of Mr. Crampton; and the *Morning Post* of Wednesday has a very truculent leading article in a "double headed" type, concluding with these words:—"The naval power of England—never more fully developed than at present, comprising a force of ships of the line, frigates, and mortar and gun-boats, in comparison with which the entire navy of the United States is but a weak and inefficient squadron—will, with the certainty of peace, be set at liberty to act in vindication of the national honour in whatever quarter it may be assailed. The change therefore, which has recently come over the drama to European politics will, no doubt, have its proper weight with all reflecting men in the United States, and they will consider whether, in a point of mere international punctilio—which has been the subject of explanation and apology—a war should be rashly and wickedly provoked which would sweep American commerce from the seas, and lay the whole seaboard of the Union open to the attacks of the greatest naval Power in the world."

The weather at New York has been very severe; a snow-storm of unexampled severity swept the whole of the Atlantic coast, from Virginia to Halifax, on the 5th ult., and continued to rage for nearly eighteen hours. Boisterous weather, moreover, together with a great deal of ice and snow has been encountered by the mails in passing to and fro between this country and America. Reports are current of an extensive filibustering expedition having landed in Lower California. At Oregon, several sanguinary engagements have been fought with the Indians. A rumour of Walker having been overthrown in Nicaragua, has been

contradicted.—Mexico continues in a most disorganised and anarchic state. Comonfort, it is thought, will soon fall, and General Almonte is looked on by the Liberals as the rising man.

Business in the New York stock market is quiet. There is less demand for money, and foreign exchanges continue dull.

THE ORIENT.

INDIA.

The Santal insurrection (says the *Bombay Times* of January 2nd) may be said to be suppressed. Tranquillity prevails throughout India. The kingdom of Oude is about to be sequestered, the King to be allowed £100,000 a-year, the army to be reduced from 80,000 to 15,000; the entire administration of affairs to be intrusted to the Resident, General Outram. The settlement of the Oudeypore differences, which renders the political agent supreme, has dissatisfied the chiefs. The native princes, whose administration is admitted to be blameless, are endeavouring to obtain some better security than they have hitherto enjoyed for the retention of their dominions. The charges of the Indian navy are about to be increased from half to close on a million sterling annually, one-fourth the revenue of the Presidency, and two-thirds the charges of the army of 60,000 men. Lord Canning is expected at the Presidency on his way to Calcutta; the present Governor-General retires on the 1st of March, after an administration of eight years' duration. A fair business has been done in the import market; money is scarce, and exchange has advanced.

CHINA.

No further news of the progress of the rebellion has been received by the last mails. An extensive fire has occurred at Canton, and is supposed to be incendiary. The police force there is very inefficient; as an evidence of which, an organised attack has been made on a house of business, and a large amount of cash has been run away with. The failure of several Chinese establishments at Shanghai, followed by the suspension of Messrs. Aspinwall, Mackenzie, and Co., with liabilities, it is said, exceeding £150,000, has caused something like a panic in that quarter.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

The Emperor Napoleon is again figuring before the Parisian public as an author. "The third and fourth volumes of his works," says the *Times* Paris correspondent, "have just been published. They are by far the most interesting volumes, as they are the conclusion. The third volume contains the letters, speeches in the Assembly, addresses to the electors before the nomination of the Emperor to the Presidency of the Republic, as also his letters, proclamations, messages to the Assembly, and speeches in public from the 20th of December, 1849, to the date of the *coup d'état*, 2nd of December, 1851, and from this date the allocutions, &c., of the Emperor to the day of the entry of the Imperial Guard on its return from the Crimea. The Emperor had made some progress in a large work entitled *De l'Armée et de l'Artillerie*, but, not having as yet time to complete it, the fourth volume now published contains copious extracts from his MS., and may, in fact, be considered as a summary of the large work."

The prospect of peace is already beginning to exercise a beneficial influence on the trade of Paris.

The *émeute* at the Sorbonne, in which the students hooted M. Nisard for his real or supposed apostasy from Republicanism, has been followed up by a procession of the young gentlemen through the streets of Paris, with the intention of making another anti-Nisard demonstration before that gentleman's private house. But the police interfered; nearly the whole number (amounting to about a hundred) was arrested; some sixty were sent home to their parents in the provinces; and others were retained in Paris, and threatened with a citation before the Police Correctionnelle.

The Court of Correctional Police of Lyons tried, on the 23rd ult., four persons accused of having clandestinely imported seditious publications into France, and, among others, M. Felix Pyat's letter to the Queen of England. They were forwarded from Geneva in double-bottomed casks. Three of the accused were sentenced to two, three, and six months' imprisonment, and the fourth was acquitted.

AUSTRIA.

The Emperor of Austria, "as a mark of consideration for his illustrious ally, Queen Victoria," has granted a pardon to Colonel Turri.

The *Frankfort Post Zeitung* learns that the Imperial patent for the non-Catholics of the Empire will appear at the end of this month. 1st. All legally-recognised religious communities have a right to practise their religious rites publicly. 2nd. They shall manage all their religious matters without let or hindrance from any one. In respect of secession from one Christian church to another, and to marriages between Catholics and non-Catholics, the provisional laws passed in the year 1849 will, for the present, remain in force.

The diplomatic representatives of Austria have, it is said, received orders formally to disavow all that has been said on the subject of a pretended convention relative to the reconstitution of Poland under an Austrian archduke.

PRUSSIA.

The *Vienna Presse* has learned from Berlin that a few days ago the *parole* given to the garrison of that city was "Kara-Mouraviev!"

DENMARK.

Count Reventlow having proposed an address to the King of Denmark, claiming a guarantee of the sacred rights of the Duchy of Holstein, a strong majority of the Holstein Diet adopted it. The Royal Commissioner, who had vigorously opposed this address, immediately quitted the hall. The dissolution of the Diet is considered as probable. The War Department in Sweden has just drawn from the Treasury 1,100,000*fr.* to be applied to the urgent defence of the kingdom.

SWITZERLAND.

The return of M. Marilley, the Catholic Bishop, to Geneva (says a letter in the *Paris Presse*), has caused such an agitation in the canton that the Government was obliged again to order him to quit his diocese. The Government grounds that decision on the breach of the prelate's promise to re-enter Geneva without assuming any official character, avoiding all manifestation, and like a mere Swiss citizen, instead of which he officiated as Bishop in the Catholic Church of Geneva, and announced that he would officiate on the following Sunday in the Church of Carouge; but the parish priest of Geneva, who negotiated the conditions of M. Marilley's return, has published a letter, in which he formally contradicts the allegations of the Council of State, and contends that an express permission was granted the Bishop to act as he pleased in the interior of the church. Public opinion is greatly excited by the affair, which is considered likely to produce serious complications for the Cantonal Government. M. Marilley, after the Sonderbund war, in which he took an active part, was banished from the diocese of Geneva and Lausanne, the seat of which was at Friburg. This measure was adopted in consequence of M. Marilley's refusal to recognise the new Constitution of Friburg, and the articles of the Federal Compact, which confirmed it. A conference between the cantons which signed the convention of 1848 is about to be held.

ITALY.

The Princess Butera, widow of a Prince Scordia of Palermo, who has been residing for some months at Florence on account of her own health, and in order to be near her children, who are at school there, has been ordered by the Tuscan Government either to separate herself from her children or with them to leave the Grand Ducal territories! The King of Naples is said to be at the bottom of this order. The Princess will retire to Piedmont.

RUSSIA.

A ukase has just been published, opening the frontiers of the Russian Empire to all the travellers against whom they have been closed since 1849.

A new loan, amounting to 600,000 silver roubles (2,400,000*fr.*), is about to be levied on Finland for the expenses of the war. Holland, as well as Austria and Prussia (says a despatch from Berlin), has been very urgent with Russia with a view to peace.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

The *Corriere Italiano* learns from Galatz that the subjoined plan for the future organisation of the Danubian Principalities has been presented to Aali Pacha by Lord Stratford:—"1. The two Principalities to form one state under the *suzeraineté* of the sultan. 2. The Prince to be elected for life. The sovereign dignity to be hereditary in his family. 3. The Prince to be a native. 4. The new State to pay tribute to the Porte. The amount of the same to be settled after the election of the Prince. 5. The new State to have two Houses of Parliament. 6. A national army to be formed. 7. The Porte will continue not to interfere in the internal affairs of the Principalities." It is said that France and the Porte (and Austria) object to the fifth article.

TURKEY.

A collision has taken place between the Austrian and Turkish soldiers garrisoning Giurgevo. Two Turks were killed; and both garrisons were called to arms, as the quarrel threatened to assume a serious character.

Sardinia has been excluded from the Constantinople Conferences on the question of the rights of the Christians in Turkey. The plea urged is that she did not join in the Vienna Conferences of last April, of which the present are a kind of corollary. It is said that Sardinia will protest against this exclusion.

A private correspondent at Constantinople writes us that "Dervish Pacha, General of Division, left on the 15th January to be present, as representative of the Sublime Porte, at the Council of War to be held in Paris. An Imperial decree was issued on the same day, authorising the Kustendje Canal: the construction has been intrusted to the French. The weather here is now very cold; snow fell during nearly the whole of the 14th."

From the same writer we hear that complaint,

had been made to Admiral Grey, from Halli Pacha that the Telegraph, which is in course of construction from Kululi to Soutari, was carried through his harem gardens, and harem. "The ladies refuse to sleep in the house, and they last night left it *en masse*, and men were placed in it to keep guard; the ladies having an idea that it will tell of the proceedings in the harem! It is supposed that the wires will have to make a *détour* round the premises in consequence."

A deputation from a council of the Protestants of London, Berlin, Paris, and America, held last November in Paris, went to Constantinople, and waited on the Grand Vizir, with a memorial praying for liberty of conscience in religious matters for Turkish subjects. The Vizir sent them to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The deputation waited on him day after day without being able to see him; and when at length they obtained an audience, the Minister evaded any direct answer. The attempt on the part of the deputation has caused a disagreeable sensation; but, when it is considered that a Mahometan who embraces Christianity is liable to death, it must be admitted that it is time for the public opinion of Europe to interfere.

OUR CIVILISATION.

THE CASE OF ALLEGED SWINDLING BY FOREIGNERS.—Ernest Theophile Guignot and Woog Javal, the two men charged at Guildhall with being connected with a gang of foreign swindlers, were last Saturday discharged on their re-examination, for want of sufficient evidence to proceed with the case. Alderman Magnew, however, expressed his strong suspicion of both.

JOHN THOMPSON, a fellow who, a few days ago, snatched a cheque for £25 from the hand of a gentleman in Mansion-house-place, was sentenced to imprisonment for three months as a rogue and vagabond.

CHILD MURDER AT SHEFFIELD.—An inquest respecting a child named Wilfred Deakin, who was killed by his uncle, James Hill, was held at Sheffield on Saturday. Hill surrendered himself to the police on Thursday, and was present at the inquest. The evidence showed that Hill left his work about half-past five o'clock in the afternoon, went direct to the house of his brother-in-law, and invited his nephew to go out with him for a walk; that he took the child to a brick-yard within one hundred yards of the house of its parents, and there, with a razor, almost severed the head from the body. The jury returned a unanimous verdict of Wilful Murder against James Hill, and he was committed for trial at the ensuing assizes. It is understood that evidence will be brought forward to show that on several occasions he has manifested symptoms of insanity.

THE RUGLEY POISONINGS.—The body of Mr. Cook has been exhumed, in order that certain parts of the corpse, which were not analysed by Drs. Taylor and Rees, should be examined. Mr. George Palmer intimated that it was his intention to secure the presence at the examination of a medical man who should watch the proceedings in the interest of the accused.

THE MANCHESTER POISONINGS.—James Monaghan and George Barry have been again examined on the charge of poisoning the father of the former, and are still under remand. In connexion with this case, two men, named Terence McLaughlin and James Keefe, have been charged with forging a will purporting to be the will of the late John Monaghan, the person supposed to have been poisoned. These men also were remanded.

BURGLARY IN THE EVENING.—Some men entered the house of Captain Angell, Birkenhead, about seven o'clock on Sunday evening, while the family were at chapel. The servant and a little girl were left in the house, and they were bound together, and intimidated by one of the men, who held a dagger over them. In the meanwhile, the others ransacked the house, and, ultimately, all departed with the greatest composure.

THE SHOT ROBBERY IN THE BELVIDERE-ROAD.—William Burns, James Winter, and Isaac Jones, were re-examined at Lambeth on Wednesday, on the charge (already detailed in this paper) of robbing their employers, shot manufacturers, of a large amount of shot. On this occasion, Mr. Henry Smith, the landlord of the King's Arms public-house, Roupel-street, Lambeth, was accused of having received some of the shot, knowing it to have been stolen. It also appeared from the evidence that another publican was implicated in receiving the goods. The case was again adjourned; Smith and Winter being admitted to bail. A complaint was made against two police sergeants for excess of duty in connexion with this case. They went to the house of Mr. Dawson, the father-in-law of Burns, to inquire about a chain belonging to the employers of the latter; and, although it was pointed out to them, they took Mr. Dawson into custody, and kept him at the station for seven or eight hours. Mr. Elliott recommended that the complaint should be laid before the Commissioners of Police.

A "RESPECTABLE" FORGER.—A young man of very "respectable" appearance, named George Bath Patman, has been committed for trial on several charges of uttering forged cheques.

HUNGER-FANGED.—John Seaward, a labourer, having a great appearance of destitution, was charged at the Mansion-house with stealing a shoulder of mutton from a butcher's shop. He pleaded starvation as an excuse; and, as it appeared that his statement was true, he was discharged with a caution not to steal in future, but to go to the workhouse.

DRINK-MANIA.—Angelo Famagalla, an Italian, was charged at Clerkenwell with making a murderous and wholly unprovoked attack on Samuel Goldsmith and William Davidson. The two men were standing at night in Baldwin's-gardens, Gray's-inn-lane, when the Italian, who was far gone in drink, came up, struck Goldsmith twice in the face, and then attacked Davidson with a knife or dagger, making several furious thrusts at his heart, and wounding him severely in the left wrist. He was overpowered with considerable difficulty, and Davidson was taken to the hospital. Famagalla, when before the magistrate, said he was so drunk that he did not know what he was about. He has been committed for trial.

A SWINDLER WHO COULD NOT DO WITHOUT "HIS BIBLE."—John Marioni, an Italian, having called on Mr. Ambrose Ford, of Great George-street, Westminster, contrived, by a pathetic story of distress, to induce that gentleman to give him money to buy images. He called again, and declined Mr. Ford's offer to send him to his own country, because, he said, he had become a Protestant, and could not reconcile himself to going back to a country where he should be deprived of "his Bible." He said he was promised a situation, if he could get suitable clothes, and begged Mr. Ford to let him have some money for that purpose. Mr. Ford consented, if he could be satisfied that Marioni's story was true. Subsequent inquiries, however, showed that the pious Italian was an imposter, and he was given into custody. Mr. Jardine, before whom he was brought at Bow-street, remanded him.

OBITUARY.

JOHN LALOR, ESQ.—This gentleman, for some years editor of the *Morning Chronicle*, a reviewer in some of the quarterlies, and the author of an "Essay on Education," "Money and Morals," and other works, died on Sunday. He was a native of Ireland; originally a Roman Catholic, but afterwards a Protestant. During his conduct of the *Morning Chronicle*, he was not unknown to the present Premier.

NAVAL AND MILITARY NEWS.

COURTS MARTIAL have been held on board the flag-ship Victory, in Portsmouth Harbour, for trying Mr. Robert Trotter, assistant-engineer of the Falcon, on charges of neglect of duty, drunkenness, and insubordination, and Mr. James A. W. Nicholls, assistant-paymaster on board the Duke of Wellington, for drunkenness, indecorous conduct, and abusiveness towards a stoker. The first prisoner pleaded guilty to the whole of the charges; the second, to the greater part. They were dismissed the service; and Trotter was sentenced to six months' imprisonment in Winchester gaol.

THE ALDERSEOTT CAMP.—The internal organisation of the camp now embraces not only schools and churches, but a post-office, parcel-office, divisional commissariat stores, and corrugated iron prisons. The long row of huts are divided into battalions, twelve on the south side of the Basingstoke Canal, eight on the north, and each distinguished by its own alphabetical letter.—*Times*.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.—The number of men to be voted for the fleet in the forthcoming naval estimates is 76,000 (including 10,000 boys and 16,000 marines). The number voted last year was a total of 70,000. The increase in this year's estimates is 6,000 men and officers to complete the complements of the gun and mortar boats, the expense of whose wages will be about £273,000, and about £140,000 for victualling, making a total increase under this head of the war service of about £413,000.

THE STEAM-SHIP GREAT BRITAIN having been again taken up by Government, is being refitted and repaired, to be made available for the conveyance of troops. She will sail from Liverpool on the 9th of February, with about 1,100 troops for Malta. The screw-steamer Sarah Sands is also being refitted at Liverpool for the transport service.

THE STEAMER ROYAL CHARTER, on its outward voyage to Australia, was obliged to put back to Plymouth. It encountered very heavy weather in the Bay of Biscay, and, owing to some inadvertency or neglect about the "water-ways" and gunwale, and to the circumstance of the ship having been too heavily loaded, the water poured into the berths of the second and third class passengers.

THE STEAMER BELGIQUE, on her voyage from Southampton to New York, sprang a leak, and, after having reached more than seven hundred miles westward of the Lizard, was obliged to put back to Southampton. The emigrants complain of their food and accommodation; and it is said that the general arrangements of the vessel are not in accordance with English notions. Applications to the magistrates have been made by the emigrants for compensation for their loss of time,

and for the means of obtaining lodgings on shore. The cases have not yet been decided.

MURDER ON THE HIGH SEAS.—John Shimmonds, a Manila boy, after exhibiting great insubordination on board the ship Owen Williams, from the African coast to Liverpool, struck dead a man who was sent into the shrouds after him. On the following morning, several blank cartridges were fired at him; but, as these had no effect, a loaded pistol was discharged, which brought him tumbling down, and in the fall he broke his collar-bone. He is now in custody at Liverpool.

THE BRITISH GERMAN LEGION.—The second regiment of the British German Legion, on its way to the Crimea on board the Transit, showed some signs of mutiny. The ship sprang a leak, and it was found necessary to work the troops at the pumps rather hard. One of the men cut the hoses of three of the pumps; and he was ordered to be flogged. His comrades, however, thought he was about to be shot, and they therefore rushed to arms. On being informed of the real punishment, they exclaimed, "No flogging! We're Germans, not English." Subsequently, it was discovered that the man's arm was hurt; and, as he expressed contrition, the punishment was postponed, and will no doubt be mitigated. But there is something not very soothing to our national self-love in the exclamation, "No flogging! We're Germans, not English."

THE ROMANCE OF "THE TIMES."

[Under this head, we reproduce from week to week the most remarkable of those mysterious advertisements which appear every day at the top of the second column of the *Times* front page. Such materials are worthy of being preserved in some other form.]

A. H.—Communicate without delay the cause of your anxiety, and leave the issue with Him who "doeth all things well."—Royal Navy.

BROTHER, Dear.—I have not heard from you. Have you forgotten your sister? Our dear mother is very ill. You promised to write once a week, and she is unhappy at your silence. Pray write.

BROTHER, Dear.—Although fate has so cruelly separated us, I still hope we may meet ere long. It would indeed gladden the heart of our dear mother to see you again. With kind love, believe me, always yours affectionately.

M. D.—I did receive your kind note, my dear sister, and thank you sincerely for it. I fully expected to have done so personally ere this, but cruel fate has separated us. Pray forgive me; and, with kind love, believe me yours affectionately, R.

A. H.—Indeed, you wrong me. Even an angry thought never entered my head. I feel towards you the same as ever. Pray write more confidentially and kindly, as my anxiety is great.

TO ISABEL.—Your handsome offer is received, but I cannot trespass so far on your unknown generosity. I have no intention of going to the Crimea at present. I thank you for your kind interest in W. J. G.

THE PERSON who, on the 5th of December last, addressed an anonymous letter to a lady residing at Wanstead, is invited to be more explicit, there being too much reason to fear that the surmise of the writer is correct.

R. S.—Am much better. Bear with patience. Will write soon. Be happy.

PARTHIAN.—Wrote as directed. Nothing received since. Very anxious. Hope prevails.—I. L.

TO G. H.—As it is now more than a year and a half since I received any letter or paper from you, before this is inserted I shall have left England to see if I can find you. Write, therefore, to me at all the places to which you wished me to write to you when you left Sloane-street, in November, 1853. If you require money, write to your brokers, and if you get home before me, advertise on the first of each month in the *Times* till you see me.—November 16, 1855.—W. J. H.

THE KARENS.

(From a Private Correspondent in Burmah.)

The greater part of the agricultural population of the newly-acquired British province of Burmah does not consist of Burmese, properly so called, but of a people called Karens, who speak a language radically distinct from Burmese, and who possess a religion, manners, and habits, peculiar to themselves. These Karens were the original possessors of the country—that is, of the Sitang Valley, of Pegu proper, of the Delta of the Irrawaddy, and the district of Bassein. They were conquered by the Burmese of the northern provinces about two hundred years ago, and have since been kept by them in a state of the most degrading helotage, neither their lives nor the honour of their women being safe. To these people, our annexation of Southern Burmah was a real blessing. They prayed for our success, and even gave us such assistance as a spirit-broken

people might afford, and their greatest fear now is, lest we should again give up our conquest as we did once before, and again abandon them to the tender mercies of their quondam masters. They remember to this day, with horror, the frightful cruelties exercised upon them by the Burmese in 1827, in vengeance for their having dared to rejoice at our successes, although on that occasion they had given us no other aid worth speaking of beyond their good wishes. Even in India, the Karens have not yet obtained that degree of notice to which their importance entitles them, and in England, probably, the very name is all but unknown. Yet this people is likely to prove one of the most effectual instruments in the civilisation of the East, and one of the most sturdy props of the British empire in India, as the statement of a few facts concerning them will clearly demonstrate. The Karens of British Burmah, who form actually the numerical majority of the population of the province, are yet but one branch of the Karen race—a race which extends along the entire hill country from the Isthmus of Malacca to the frontiers of China and Thibet—a country twenty-five degrees of latitude, or 1,500 geographical miles in length; speaking the same soft musical language, using the same customs, and bound together by the bonds of fraternity. These Hill Karens have maintained their independence against all aggressors for ages. In 1265 Marco Polo, the Venetian traveller, found them in the very same countries which they occupy still, and living apparently the same sort of life.

A Karen village contains from thirty to eighty families, and consists almost invariably (in the hill districts) of one large barrack, built of bamboos, in the form of three sides of a square. The inhabitants are a community among themselves; they weave their own cloth, and are sufficiently skilful blacksmiths to construct all their own tools and implements; they keep vast herds of cattle, and cultivate their fields; no one is allowed to be idle; in fact, a Karen village is a model Phalanstery. Their government is patriarchal, each village having its own chief—they acknowledge no general head, but all the communities are federalised for mutual protection; and, in case of war, if a leader is required, he is selected for the occasion. Their manners are remarkably simple; the chastity of their women, and the honour in which that sex is held, remind one of the account of the ancient Germans given by Tacitus. They are peaceable and gentle, though they have shown themselves capable of heroism on occasion—and the word of a Karen may generally be trusted. Their religion is simple enough: they believe in one God, but acknowledge the existence of demons both good and evil, who, however, are not objects of worship. Neither Buddhism nor Hindooism has made the smallest progress amongst them. The dress of the men consists of a cloth round the loins, and a loose collarless shirt with short sleeves. The women wear a very full petticoat, and over it a shirt like that of the men, usually of dark blue colour with scarlet trimmings; a crimson handkerchief is usually tied round the head. The said women are wonderfully pure in morals, and polygamy is unknown. The *personae* of the Karen shows the usual features of the Mongol stock, of which he is probably the original, certainly the purest type; face round and rather flat, long almond-shaped eyes, slightly diagonal in position, the inner angles being lower than the outer, luxuriant black hair, but either no beard or very little. The expression is pleasing, simplicity and good humour the most marked characteristics; in stature they are shorter than the majority of the people of Hindoostan, but broad-shouldered and sturdy, and are said to be capable of great endurance. One branch of the race, the Red Karens, are semi-nomadic in their habits; they build themselves a barrack in the jungle, clear away a space, and cultivate it till the soil appears less productive, and then "upstick" and away, to "squat" upon some fresh locality. The whole race, hill tribes, Red Karens, and all, cannot amount to less than ten or twelve millions; and all these are in strict alliance with each other, and pass intelligence along with marvellous celerity.

Now one of the most remarkable facts concerning this people, and the one on which their probable influence on the future of the East most specially hinges, is, that they have evinced an extraordinary aptitude for receiving Christianity. There are at present one hundred thousand Christian Karens (in round numbers) in British

Burmah. Yet it is but twenty years since even an alphabet was formed for them, for they had no written character of their own. They have shown great eagerness to acquire knowledge, a very large proportion, heathens as well as Christians, have learned to write and read; many of them are good arithmeticians, understand land surveying, and some even read and write English fluently. Twenty years ago there was no book learning of any sort among the whole race! These are facts; account for them how you like. The people were not ill-prepared to receive the white man's religion; they had no caste, no prejudices to contend with; their own creed was very simple, they had no priesthood, nor any elaborate system of ceremonial to take hold of their imaginations, and bind down their maturity in the associations of their youth. They also looked upon us as deliverers rather than as conquerors, and so were the better prepared cheerfully to welcome our "ways." I am not one of those who are ready to cry out "miracle" on all occasions. I believe the work of Providence is carried on by human means; special intervention in this case or any other I wish not to infer; but the fact is indisputable, that a marvellous progress in education and religion has been made among these said Karens, and continues still to advance with rapid strides. In the town of Hewzadah alone, nearly one hundred converts have been baptised within the last eleven months, and at the Normal school established within this current year by a missionary at Hewzadah, for the training of Karen teachers (the education including arithmetic, mensuration, and geography, as well as the Bible), thirty young men have become regular pupils. Yet Hewzadah is neither the spot in Burmah where Karens most do congregate, nor where the greatest pains have been taken with them.

Now let me recapitulate a few of the main points. The Karen race, numbering at least 10,000,000, extends throughout the hill country, 1,500 miles north from Malacca. It runs up like a breakwater between the idolatrous or Buddhist peoples of Burmah, Assam, Bhotam, and Thibet, on the one side, and Siam, Tonquin, Yunnan, and China, on the other. It is hereditarily hostile to most of these peoples, and it is favourably disposed towards us. It is peculiarly open to conversion, Christianity has already made considerable progress among these hill tribes, and as the number of teachers increases will unquestionably make more. Christianity comes among these people surrounded with many allurements; it carries with it knowledge before unknown—not as in India, antagonistic to an old national system, hallowed with the reverence of ages—but absolutely new, and eagerly sought for by an intelligent race which had no prejudices to oppose it. Protection from ancient tyranny, redemption from bondage, elevation in the social scale, all these have been the concomitants of Christianity to the Karens; no wonder, then, that they receive it kindly. Now suppose this body of men converted, and then imagine the effect of such a wedge of Christianity on the future of South-eastern Asia! Our subjects or our allies they *must* be, they *must* rest upon us for protection, and we in return may confide in them for fidelity, by the "material guarantee" of mutual interest. Their country is healthy, fertile, and would be impregnable if scientifically defended: fancy what a bulwark it would make, what a splendid natural boundary for our Eastern frontier! I believe I have said enough to indicate the importance of this most interesting race, and to show how valuable an aid we may derive from it for the consolidation of our empire and the progress of civilisation in the East.

MISCELLANEOUS.

STATE OF TRADE.—The state of trade in the manufacturing towns during the week ending last Saturday has shown no alteration. At Manchester, business has been steady and prices firm; but the suspension has been announced of Messrs. Kelly and Gilmour, cotton-spinners, with rather heavy liabilities. The Birmingham iron-market is fairly maintained, and in the general occupations of the place there is increased employment. At Nottingham, the transactions both in hosiery and lace have been of a moderate, but satisfactory, character. In the woollen districts, the operations have been to an average extent; and, in the Irish linen markets, quotations have exhibited an upward tendency.—*Times*.

THE JOWETT CONTROVERSY.—The Rev. C. P.

Golightly, who was first to call the attention of the Oxford authorities to the alleged "unsoundness" of Professor Jowett's opinion, has just addressed a letter to the Master of Balliol College, solemnly appealing to the conscience of the latter dignitary "as to that of one the soundness of whose views and the sincerity of whose piety are unquestionable," whether it can be right to uphold Mr. Jowett in the position of a tutor of Balliol College. The professor, it is known, has signed the articles, and warmly declares the charge of heterodoxy to be a false accusation.

AN ARGUMENTATIVE CABMAN.—The metropolitan magistrates recently decided that a cabman cannot charge extra for a child under ten years of age. A cabman on Monday was summoned at Westminster before Mr. Arnold—one of the principal instigators of that decision—for refusing to take a child under ten years of age into his cab in company with two gentlemen; and he justified himself by saying that children do a great deal more mischief than adults, and that, as he could not charge for them, he would not carry them. Mr. Arnold said that he might refuse to carry luggage by the same rule; on which the cabman answered, "I am bound to carry the boxes for nothing if I have only one or two persons in the cab, because the law says I am to do so; and if the child is put in a box, I'll carry it by act of Parliament." Mr. Arnold having again asked him why he refused to carry the child as a third person, he replied:—"Because a child is not a person; it is not a person by your worship's own decision; because, if it is a person, a cabman has a right to charge for it as an extra, and, if he can't charge for it, why then it can't be a person." Mr. Arnold: "It is nonsense to assert that it has been decided a child is not a person." Cabman: "It has been decided that two is a person, and that one isn't. Under your decision, a child under ten years of age don't constitute a person, and therefore, as it isn't a person, I refuse to carry it." Mr. Arnold: "It was your duty to take the child, and, if there had been a refusal to pay for it, to bring the matter before me." Cabman: "It has been decided by you that it was not to be paid for, and I should therefore have carried the child for nothing." The case was adjourned, that the cabman might have legal advice.

HOMEOPATHIC REVELATIONS.—An action has been brought in the Court of Exchequer by Mr. Jones, a homeopathic doctor, for £58 due to him for attendance on a patient. His prescription book was exhibited to a witness, a medical man, who said that he could not understand the prescriptions. Mr. Jones said that it consisted of—aconite, four ounces; belladonna, four ounces; and an ordinary lotion of silica. He explained that this was what homeopaths call silica—that is, flint-water. Mr. James, counsel for the defendant, observed, "That, I suppose, you would call *aqua pumpagenia*." Mr. Jones said, "It might be so. We give it internally to allay pain, and as a curative. It might be termed a tincture of flint or silica." "Then," said Mr. James, "that lotion is pump-water with a flint in it." The defendant having paid £25 into court—all that he admitted he owed—a verdict was given in his favour.

FATAL BOILER EXPLOSION.—A boiler has exploded at the village colliery, Standish, near Wigan, killing two persons and severely wounding and crushing others.

THE WESTMINSTER IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION.—Mr. Nathaniel Mason, of the Westminster Improvement Commission, has written to the *Times*, to complain that the statements made against that body (of which we gave an abstract in last week's *Leader*) are merely *ex parte*, and incorrect in many particulars.

THE REPRESENTATION OF MIDHURST.—Mr. Spencer H. Walpole has signified his intention to retire from the representation of Midhurst, "having received numerous applications from my own University, to allow myself to be put in nomination as a candidate at the approaching election."

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The health of London is now in a more satisfactory state than it has been usually at this period of the year. In the week that ended on Saturday 1,029 deaths, of which 500 were those of males and 529 those of females, were registered. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55 the average number was 1,165, which if raised in proportion to increase of population, becomes 1,282. The deaths in the present return are less than the corrected average by 253. Scarletina has become less fatal than it was two months ago. In November the deaths from it were about 70 in a week; last week they were 43. Hooping-cough, which has rather increased lately, carried off 56 children; and typhus (which appears to prevail to some extent in the east districts) was fatal in 44 cases. Four of these cases occurred in Whitechapel North; three of them in the workhouse. Three persons died of influenza; 10 of erysipelas; 8 of syphilis; 17 of cancer; 1 of carbuncle; 1 of intemperance; 2 of delirium tremens; 1 from want; 7 infants from want of breastmilk. Mr. Faulkner, the registrar of the south sub-district of St. Giles's, records 2 deaths in Wild-court, which he calls "an unusual occurrence" now in that locality. He attributes the remarkable diminution of mortality to sanitary improvements effected in the court. Wild-court (the

registrar adds), from being the worst, is now the best court in my district, and is a striking proof how much the health of a neighbourhood may be improved by attention to cleanliness and comfort. Last week, the births of 897 boys and 866 girls—in all 1,763 children—were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55, the average number was 1,497.—*From the Registrar General's Weekly Return.*

AUSTRALIA.—The prosperous condition of Melbourne is thus noticed by the *Times* Correspondent from that city:—"Reduced rents, a declining price of land, food at a moderate price, the supply of gold increasing, and trade reviving, are features favourable to the prospects of the immigrants, and all these elements in our condition now prevail."

MR. SLADE, Q.C., met with an accident in St. James's-park. His horse fell, and grazed Mr. Slade in several places. The learned gentleman, however, was in his place as usual in the Court of Common Pleas.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT MANCHESTER.—An accident has happened to a train from Manchester to Altrincham, as it was starting from the Oxford-road station, Manchester, the man whose duty it was to turn the points, so as to admit the train from the platform siding on to the main line, turned the wrong points, the consequence of which was that the train ran into the engine of a goods train about forty or fifty yards from the station, waiting to come towards Oxford-road when the passenger train had passed. The latter was advancing at the rate of only two miles an hour, or the results might have been extremely serious. As it was, Mr. Rogerson, farmer, Mrs. Rogerson, and Mrs. Palmer, of Sale-moor, were severely bruised, the lady first named received so severe a blow on the head as to induce concussion of the brain. Several other persons were bruised, but not seriously.

LOVE-LORE.—A young German living at Manchester, has shot himself from disappointed affection. He had become passionately attached to a young waitress at a public dining-rooms, but his parents had refused their sanction to his marriage with her. On this, he threatened to kill himself, and succeeded in taking some opium, which had no effect. A friend was requested to sleep with him, which was done. The young man, however, contrived to shoot himself while dressing one morning, and he expired instantly. Instead of wresting the weapon from him, his friend is said to have embraced him affectionately, and merely to have attempted persuasion.

A HUMBLE POET.—The *Daily News* publishes some verses by Mr. John Critchley Prince, a reed-maker at Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire. Death in his family, ill health, and want of employment, reduced the writer to a condition of the utmost distress. He has now, however, obtained fresh employment; but lacks the means for settling past embarrassments. All who are willing to aid him are invited by the *Daily News* to send their contributions to the office of that paper. Mr. Prince obtained £50 from the Queen's bounty when administered by Sir Robert Peel.

THE EASTERN COUNTIES RAILWAY.—The adjourned meeting of this company was held on Tuesday at the London Tavern, to receive the result of the poll on Mr. Goodson's amendment in favour of Mr. Waddington. The chair was taken by the latter gentleman, who stated the results of the votes. These were in favour of Mr. Waddington. For Mr. Goodson's amendment, there were 160 personal votes, representing £277,340 stock and 4,111 votes; and 552 proxies, representing £1,174,880 stock and 17,014 votes; together 712 proprietors, representing £1,452,220 stock and 21,120 votes. Against the amendment were recorded 508 personal votes, representing £695,980 stock and 11,716 votes; and 175 proxies, representing £231,500 stock, and 3,994 votes; making together 683 proprietors, representing £927,480 stock, and 15,704 votes. Majority for amendment and in favour of Mr. Waddington, 29 proprietors, representing £524,740 stock, and 5,421 votes. Mr. Buller said he believed the majority of proxies in favour of Mr. Waddington was principally made of ladies and ladies' maids. Mr. Ball, M.P., explained that the Committee of Investigation had issued their proxies too late, and the personal votes for the committee were between five and six hundred, while only one hundred and sixty were given for Mr. Waddington. The proceedings terminated in a vote of thanks to the chairman.

THE VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.—The flow is still undiminished, and, though slow in its progress, is sure. The source, which is about 1,300 feet from the summit of the stupendous Mauna Loa (Hawaiian—great mountain), or 1,200 feet above the level of the sea, is still in active operation, and on a clear day can be distinctly seen from the decks of the ships in the harbour of Hilo. Where it strikes the Waikua river, it throws up a beautiful white cloud of steam, while the dense smoke caused by the burning of the noble forest and luxuriant vegetation makes up a picture well worth the travel to see.—*Honolulu Paper.*

SUDDEN DEATH OF A PROCTOR.—Mr. J. J. Mansdell, a proctor of Doctors' Commons, who has recently

been conducting himself in a very eccentric and indecorous manner about Beaumaris, Carnarvon, and Bangor, died suddenly from apoplexy in a low beer-shop at Conway. Some years ago, he attempted to kill himself by shooting. A wound was discovered in his throat, but the bullet was missing. The post mortem examination which has just been made, revealed a great deal of extravasated blood behind one of the ears; and in the skull was found the missing bullet.

THE BLACK EMPEROR AND HIS WARS.—News from Port au Prince to the 10th of January states that the Emperor Faustin passed the frontier of the Republic of St. Domingo on the 20th of December with three army corps—one in the north from the Cape, one in the south, and one from Port au Prince, commanded by himself. He was, however, repulsed everywhere, sustained heavy loss, and was obliged to make a precipitate flight. Eighty cases of ammunition were captured by the Dominicans. After his defeat, the Emperor left for the Cape, where a revolution was threatening to upset his empire. Several Generals, for retreating, were tried by court-martial, and condemned to death. Business was at a complete standstill.

ACCIDENTAL HANGINGS.—A child of twelve years old named Abraham Longman, living near Southampton, has accidentally strangled himself by a leathern strap hanging from a beam. His parents had gone out, and he was left at home with three younger children, when for the sake of a frolic, he took up a strap of leather and tying it to a beam across the house, playfully observed to one of his companions that it would soon kill a man, and added that he meant to hang himself. He then mounted a chair, thrust his neck into a noose which he made in the strap, and swung himself off. He was found hanging from the beam quite dead, by one of his elder sisters who came home in the course of the afternoon, some time after the occurrence. An inquest was held on the body, and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.—Another case, very similar to the one just mentioned, but without its fatal termination, has occurred in Bermondsey. Some boys were playing a game at hanging, when one of them, volunteering to be the hanged one, tied a noose round his neck by means of a rope that hung from the ceiling of the room, and kicked the chair on which he was standing from under him. His face immediately underwent horrible contortions, and he would in all probability have been hung in earnest, had not the cries of his companions brought assistance, when he was cut down, and restored to animation.

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The Natal papers publish long accounts of the visit of Sir George Grey to that colony. At Springfield, his Excellency visited the sugar estate, and expressed much astonishment at finding an area of one hundred and twenty acres of cane ripening for next crop. He was, moreover, informed that here were from four to five hundred acres in other directions, north and south, on the coast lands in a similar state of progress. His Excellency was everywhere received with the greatest enthusiasm.

RETIREMENT OF MR. BLACKETT, M.P.—Owing to the same cause which has deprived the House of Commons of Mr. Macaulay—ill health—Mr. Blackett has signified his intention of retiring from the representation of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Mr. George Ridley has come forward in the liberal interest, and it is thought that he will simply walk over the course, though there is some talk of his being opposed by Mr. Ralph Walters, who in 1852 contested the borough of Gateshead on anti-radical principles.

PROPOSED COLLEGE AT NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—The mining engineers of the north of England a short time ago proposed to found a college in Newcastle, with a capital of at least £30,000. Mr. Nicholas Wood, an eminent coal viewer, and President of the Mining Institute, brought this intention under the notice of the Duke of Northumberland, requesting that his Grace would lend his assistance to the movement, and become patron of the college. The duke, in answer to this appeal, signified to Mr. Wood that, in case the amount of subscribed capital should reach £15,000, his Grace would add £5,000 to that sum; and, if it should reach £30,000, his Grace would subscribe £10,000.

THE CASE OF MR. DYCE SOMBRE.—Sir John Dodson, in the Prerogative Court on Saturday, gave judgment in this case, which was argued at great length last Trinity term. The question was as to the validity of Mr. Sombre's will, which was disputed on the ground that he was insane. The chief allegations will be found in the *Leader* of June 2, 1855. Sir John Dodson, last Saturday, pronounced against the will and codicil; and the executor, and other parties connected with the will, were condemned in costs.

THE CASE OF THE JANET MITCHELL.—It will be recollected that, between two and three months ago, the master of this vessel was brought before Mr. Yardley, the Thames police magistrate, on a charge of ill-treating some Lascar seamen, and that Mr. Yardley expressed himself with great warmth and vehemence on the subject. His language was brought

before Sir George Grey by Mr. Mitchell, the owner of the ship; and the Home Secretary has conveyed to the magistrate his disapprobation of such conduct. To this Mr. Yardley has replied by stating that he "acquiesces in that decision," and desires to express to Mr. Mitchell, through Sir George Grey, his regret that he was impelled to use the language in question.

OFFICIAL DINNERS.—The Lord Mayor, on Wednesday evening, entertained, at the Mansion House, the chairman and members of the Metropolitan Board of Works.—Lord Palmerston, Earl Granville, and Mr. Disraeli, on the same evening, gave dinner parties preparatory to the opening of the Parliamentary session. At Lord Palmerston's and Earl Granville's residences, the Queen's speech was read to the guests.

We are about to enter another Macaulay controversy. Mr. Hepworth Dixon announces for next week an answer to Mr. Macaulay's charges against Penn. Mr. Macaulay,—so rumour has it,—is employed upon a rejoinder to his various critics,—particularly (it is said) to the *Times* and the *Athenaeum*. Penn, Dryden, and Marlborough are the chief men whose reputations have been assailed by the historian; and his judgments on these personages stand in highest need of explanation and defence. Mr. Dixon, we understand, replies upon the entire case as against Penn.—Mr. Macaulay's accusations standing in the latest editions as they stood in the first. We shall be glad to see what Mr. Macaulay can urge in defence of the Taunton charge,—of his assertion that Marlborough's letter caused the failure at Brest,—that Dryden changed his religion for money,—that Jeffreys is buried in the Tower and Schomberg in Westminster,—the two latter blunders which the *Times* presses against him. Literary controversy is always pleasant; and when conducted with courtesy, and with an earnest desire for the truth—as this controversy most assuredly will be—it is serviceable to history as well as pleasant to readers.—*Athenaeum.*

THE ACCIDENTAL POISONINGS AT DINGWALL.—An examination into this lamentable affair has exhibited the fact that, by a mistake on the part of a servant lad, some roots of the highly poisonous plant, wolfsbane, were substituted by the cook for horseradish in making a kind of sauce which was poured over the roast beef. The wolfsbane grew close to the horseradish; and a similarity of appearance might readily lead to the mistake.

DISMISSAL OF A POSTMASTER.—Mr. James H. Ad., postmaster of Huntingdon, has just been dismissed from that situation for unlawfully detaining a post-office order enclosed in a letter addressed to Messrs. Du Barry for Arabia food. Being an agent for Messrs. Du Barry, Mr. Hatfield stopped the order and directed that the Arabia should be sent to Mr. Fox, of Upton, the writer of the letter. The food was sent accordingly and charged to the account of the post-office. The postmaster alleges that Mr. Fox left the order with him, as usual, to be enclosed and posted; but this Mr. Fox denies, declaring positively that on the present occasion he posted it himself. Mr. Hatfield has been examined before the Huntingdon magistrate and committed for trial. Bail to the amount of £300 was accepted.

CHANGING THE VENUE OF PALMER'S TRIAL.—Mr. Sergeant Wilkins on Tuesday applied in the Court of Queen's Bench for a *certiorari* with a view to causing William Palmer to be tried at bar, or that the venue might be changed to any other county than Staffordshire. Affidavits on the part of William Palmer and John Smith, his solicitor, setting forth the degree of prejudice excited in Staffordshire against the former were read; and a long discussion on points of law ensued. Lord Campbell denied that any ground had been shown for a trial at bar; but he granted a rule nisi to be served on the solicitor for the prosecution in London and the attorney in the country. He has since directed that the *certiorari* shall issue.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.—A recent decision of the Court of Session in Scotland has declared the perfect legality of marriage with a deceased wife's sister.

THE IRISH TENANT LEAGUE.—The annual gathering of this body took place at Dublin on Tuesday. Seven members of Parliament, and about thirty other gentlemen, lay and clerical, were present. A long report was read and adopted, and the meeting broke up.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

The Queen opened the Parliamentary session on Thursday. The day was fine, though cold; the populace thronged, as usual, along the route; and the Queen was loudly applauded, as, in the midst of her escort of Life Guards, she drove towards the House. She left Buckingham-palace shortly before two o'clock, and entered the House of Peers about half-past two. The carriages of the ambassadors—or, rather, their inmates—were variously received by the populace; Turkey, Sardinia, and France being loudly applauded, and others less so. A brilliant attendance of peeresses and their daughters filled to overflowing the galleries of the Upper House; and the black ambas-

sador of the monarch of Haiti caused considerable curiosity among the fair visitors. Her Majesty entered the House leaning on the arm of Prince Albert, and, on the arrival of the Commons, delivered

THE ROYAL SPEECH.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"Since the close of the last session of Parliament, the arms of the Allies have achieved a signal and important success. Sebastopol, the great stronghold of Russia in the Black Sea, has yielded to the persevering constancy and to the daring bravery of the allied forces. The naval and military preparations for the ensuing year have necessarily occupied my serious attention; but while determined to omit no effort which could give vigour to the operations of the war, I have deemed it my duty not to decline any overtures which might reasonably afford a prospect of a safe and honourable peace. Accordingly, when the Emperor of Austria lately offered to myself and to my august Ally, the Emperor of the French, to employ his good offices with the Emperor of Russia, with a view to endeavour to bring about an amicable adjustment of the matters at issue between the contending Powers, I consented, in concert with my Allies, to accept the offer thus made, and I have the satisfaction to inform you that certain conditions have been agreed upon which I hope may prove the foundation of a general Treaty of Peace.

"Negotiations for such a Treaty will shortly be opened at Paris.

"In conducting those negotiations I shall be careful not to lose sight of the objects for which the war was undertaken; and I shall deem it right in no degree to relax my naval and military preparations until a satisfactory Treaty of Peace shall have been concluded.

"Although the war in which I am engaged was brought on by events in the South of Europe, my attention has not been withdrawn from the state of things in the North; and, in conjunction with the Emperor of the French, I have concluded, with the King of Sweden and Norway, a Treaty containing defensive engagements applicable to his dominions, and tending to the preservation of the balance of Power in that part of Europe.

"I have also concluded a Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation with the Republic of Chili. I have given directions that these Treaties shall be laid before you.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

"The Estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you. You will find them framed in such a manner as to provide for the exigencies of War, if Peace should unfortunately not be concluded.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"It is gratifying to me to observe that, notwithstanding the pressure of the War, and the burthens and sacrifices which it has unavoidably imposed upon my people, the resources of my Empire remain unimpaired. I rely with confidence on the manly spirit and enlightened patriotism of my loyal subjects for a continuance of that support which they have so nobly afforded me, and they may be assured that I shall not call upon them for exertions beyond what may be required by a due regard for the great interests, the honour, and the dignity of the Empire.

"There are many subjects connected with internal improvement which I recommend to your attentive consideration.

"The difference which exists in several important particulars between the Commercial Laws of Scotland and those of the other parts of the United Kingdom, has occasioned inconvenience to a large portion of my subjects engaged in trade. Measures will be proposed to you for remedying this evil.

"Measures will also be proposed to you for improving the Laws relating to Partnership by simplifying those Laws, and thus rendering more easy the employment of capital in commerce.

"The system under which the Merchant Shipping is liable to pay Local Dues and Passing Tolls, has been the subject of much complaint. Measures will be proposed to you for affording relief in regard to those matters.

"Other important measures for improving the Law in Great Britain and in Ireland will be proposed to you, which will, I doubt not, receive your attentive consideration.

"Upon these and all other matters upon which you may deliberate, I fervently pray that the blessing of Divine Providence may favour your councils, and guide them to the promotion of the great object of my unvarying solicitude—the welfare and the happiness of my people."

The House then adjourned till five o'clock. On the reassembling of the Peers at that hour, the LORD CHANCELLOR re-read the Queen's Speech, and LORD GOSFORD moved

THE ADDRESS.

He prefaced his motion by a brief speech, in which he commented on the chief topics which had just been officially brought before them; and,

while expressing his participation in the nation's disappointment in having to forego hostilities after the vast preparations that had been made, conceived that it was our duty to conclude a peace upon satisfactory terms. The address was seconded by LORD ABINGDON, who spoke to the same general effect.

LORD DERBY declared, in his own name, and in that of his party, that no attempts would be made to prevent the address being carried up to the throne. The Royal Speech he described as the least satisfactory he had ever heard. It was bald and meagre beyond all precedent, containing no information on the trade and finance of the country; making no mention of India; saying nothing of our colonial possessions; omitting any warm and hearty acknowledgment of the services and heroism of the navy and army; not even alluding to the gallant defence of Kars (the fall of which must be investigated, so that the true culprit might be punished, though Lord Derby did not believe that Lord Stratford de Redcliffe was to blame); and passing over in entire silence the actions of Sardinia, an ally, and of Turkey, a principal, in the present war. He hoped the peace negotiations would not cause any indefinite suspension of hostilities by an armistice, which must be more advantageous to Russia than to England. Another omission in the Royal Speech, much to be regretted, was that of any reference to our relations with the United States—an omission which he hoped would not be regarded by the Americans as a contemptuous silence. Moreover, we had not been informed of the state of our relations with Persia. Such, he conceived, were the objections to the speech; but his party would not throw obstacles in the way of pursuing the negotiations for peace to a just and honourable termination. His Lordship concluded by referring to the recent creation of a peerage for life in the case of Lord Wensleydale, which he thought an unusual exercise of the prerogative, and in connexion with which he suggested that the new peer's patent should be laid on the table before he took the oaths, and that the question should be discussed without party feeling.

LORD CLARENDON commenced by referring to the disagreement with America, of the history of which he gave a sketch, and, while denying that Mr. Crampton ever intended or committed a violation of the American laws, expressed a hope that the quarrel would be settled by the good sense of both people. Of the peace negotiations, he said:—

"The plan proposed now to be adopted is, that the terms accepted by Russia shall be agreed to by the representatives of the Allies at Vienna—that they shall there sign a short protocol—that an armistice shall be signed agreeing that preliminaries shall be signed at Paris—and that the provisions of the treaty shall be considered and acted upon."

The armistice, he agreed with Lord Derby in thinking, should be as short as possible. He had himself accepted the post of negotiator at Paris. The Emperor of Russia had exhibited great moral courage in accepting the Austrian propositions, which were in no respect disgraceful to Russia, whose honour should be regarded.

After a few words from EARL GRANVILLE, with reference to the new life peerage (which he defended), and from LORD CAMPBELL on the same subject, the House adjourned at a few minutes after eight o'clock.

In the House of Commons, the Address was moved by MR. BYNG, who reviewed the achievements of the war, paid a tribute to the memory of Lord Raglan and to the services of Sir James Simpson, and congratulated the country on the heroism exhibited by our countrymen and our allies. He trusted that no impediments would be thrown in the way of the ratification of peace; but, should their efforts fail, the country might rely with confidence on the future achievements of our arms. The assurances in the Royal Speech with respect to law and other reforms were highly satisfactory. MR. W. E. BAXTER seconded the address.

MR. DISRAELI said he did not feel himself at liberty at present to attempt to enter into any criticism on the conditions which are referred to in the Royal Speech. The House was in possession of no information which would justify such criticism. He did not impugn the conduct of the Government in not making any disclosures; but he trusted the House, while refraining from whatever would embarrass the Ministry, would watch with the utmost vigilance—he would not say suspicion—the course of their proceedings. No little advan-

tage, in the prosecution of these negotiations, would accrue from the Parliament of England being in session. Rumours had been current for some time past of the original purpose of the war having been changed. In the last session of Parliament, a noble lord in the other house had said that one of the designs of the war was to vindicate the cause of the oppressed nationalities; and that noble lord was shortly afterwards invited to take one of the highest places in her Majesty's Councils. The nationalities of course assumed that operations were to be made on their behalf; and considerable misapprehension, both at home and abroad, was the consequence. Mr. Disraeli was glad that the speech from the throne contained assurances that the original objects of the war would be adhered to, and not augmented. Some persons had been found to regret that the war was not continued for the sake of sustaining or increasing the honour of the arms of England, which, it was thought, had not been sufficiently upheld. But to him (Mr. Disraeli) this appeared a very questionable position; and, besides that, he denied that the lustre of our arms had been dimmed. It might be affirmed of those who depreciate the power and achievements of England that they disbelieve their own assertions, and that, as had been said of a great sceptic, "they tremble as they sneer." Of the fall of Kars, some explanations must be given. "Let us," said Mr. Disraeli, "vindicate the conduct of those who, though not crowned with success, were at least crowned with glory in another place; and let us make our absent countrymen understand that it is the man who deserves, and not the man who achieves, success who is honoured by us."

LORD PALMERSTON paid a compliment to Messrs. Byng and Baxter, for the eloquence and the argumentative skill they had exhibited in moving and seconding the Address; and to Mr. Disraeli, for the temperate and becoming course taken by him as leader of the Opposition. He agreed with the latter in thinking the presence of Parliament, so far from being an inconvenience at the present crisis, is a great aid. The rumours which had been circulated, of an intention on the part of Ministers to adjourn the House for a period, were entirely incorrect. It would not be expedient to enter into any details as regards the negotiations at present; but, as soon as any step was actually taken, it would be communicated to the House. Assuredly, it would not be the duty of the Government to urge the country to prosecute a war merely for the sake of glory, if it could be honourably terminated. No doubt the resources of the country were unimpaired, while those of the enemy were rapidly diminishing. No doubt warlike preparations were being made on a gigantic scale. We should, therefore, be justified in expecting that another campaign, should another campaign be forced upon us, would result in successes which might, perhaps, entitle us to require—perhaps enable us to obtain—even better conditions than those which have been offered to us, and been accepted, by us. But the Government hoped that the terms now offered would be sufficient to secure the objects for which we drew the sword. The gallantry and devotion of our troops had been most conspicuous; and General Williams had exhibited the highest courage and ability in the memorable defence of Kars. At the proper time, the Government would be able to show that no effort on their part had been wanting to ascertain what had led to the catastrophe. They had taken every means to exchange General Williams and his companions. With regard to the estimates, the Government would lay them on the table in the shape they had been framed with a view to the war going on; but a vote on account would be taken for a portion of the year.

MR. ROEBUCK said he had no confidence in the Government of Lord Palmerston, and he believed the country had none. We had been brought improprietly into a great war. We had beheld that war inefficiently conducted; and it became the duty of that House to see that the country do not come out of the war with disgrace.

"It is said that we must enter into this peace because our ally, our great ally, our big brother, as he is called, chooses to lead the way. Time has been when this country has stood alone. Time has been when England has resisted the conquering legions led by the greatest warrior whom the world ever saw. We stood alone against the great Napoleon, and we conquered him. Shall it be said that now, with all the appliances of modern science—with a fleet never before equalled, with an army greater than any English general ever

commanded—we, who were able to cope with Napoleon, are not able to cope with Russia? If such is the language held by the Administration—if they are prepared to yield just what is demanded of them—though the noble lord acknowledges that at the end of the next campaign we shall probably be in a much better position—then I can understand the conditions under which we now—I will use the word—*sue* for peace. (Hear, hear.) Kars has fallen. Before the Redan the English army has been repelled. The English navy has come back a second time from the Baltic without a single object accomplished. (Hear.) Our honour has been tarnished. (Opposition cheers.) Do not suppose I am speaking against the gallantry of our army. I recollect that was said abroad, that it was an army of lions led by jackasses, and I believe that to be a correct description. (Cheers.) This is the condition in which we go for peace, and if peace be obtained now, when with all these sacrifices our honour is tarnished, will not Russia, I ask, have reason to rejoice? There have been arrayed against her the two greatest nations of the world; a fleet that has made the seas as safe to them as this floor; an army of four different nations, and I am told 'we have taken Sebastopol.' Have we? Are we not still held at bay there? Are we not cooped up in a corner of the peninsula; and is not Sebastopol as far out of our reach as it was a year ago? (Hear, hear.) And shall it be said that this is a sufficient progress to be achieved by our arms, and that this is a sufficient reward of our labours? Sir, I do not like to assume the character of a prophet, but, if a peace is to be so precluded, Russia will be in Constantinople in ten years. (Hear, hear.) And when she is there the Black Sea is hers, Asia Minor is hers, Persia will be hers, Afghanistan will follow, and then she touches on India.

Suppose Russia were to build gunboats at Nicholas—would that be a *casus belli*? If not, these gunboats would come into the Black Sea; they would get under the guns of Sebastopol, and beyond our reach, and in twenty-four hours they would be in Constantinople. The consuls we are to have in the Black Sea would not prevent this: we should remonstrate, but the building of the gunboats would continue. Mr. Roebuck called upon the House to watch carefully over the negotiators and the negotiations of Paris. If, in another campaign, we drove Russia out of the Crimea, and erected the Principalities, with Bessarabia, into a kingdom, we should obtain something like an effectual guarantee.

Mr. STAFFORD bore testimony to the improved state of our hospitals in the East and of the transport ships.—Sir DE LACY EVANS insisted that it was not for English objects we had embarked in the war, but for the interests of Europe and of humanity. France was more deeply interested than England in preventing the aggrandisement of Russia. He doubted how far the propositions accepted by Russia were calculated to lead to a permanent peace.—Lord JOHN MANNERS gave a conditional approval to the Austrian propositions.—After some brief observations from Sir HENRY WILLOUGHBY, Mr. HADFIELD, and Mr. V. SCULLY, the motion for the adoption of the Address was agreed to *nem. con.*

The House adjourned at half-past seven o'clock.

PROSPECTS OF THE SEASON.

In the earlier part of the evening, Mr. HATYER read a list of measures which the Government intend to introduce forthwith; amongst others, a measure for the amendment of the law of partnership; for the regulation of joint-stock companies; for regulating certain offices in the House of Commons; amendment of the act relating to the metropolitan police; for the Reform of the City of London; for the better regulation of the police in counties; for the abolition of passing tolls, and better regulation of local dues on shipping, &c.

Several members gave notice of motions.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL intimated his intention of moving, early in March, certain resolutions on the subject of national education; Sir CHARLES NAPIER, to move on Thursday, February 7th, for papers connected with the Baltic fleet, up to September, 1855; and Mr. HENRY BAILEY, to move a resolution condemnatory of the course taken by the Government in the matter of enlistments in foreign countries, as calculated to lower the dignity of England, and dangerous to the preservation of peace.

FRIDAY.

Mr. PACKE gave notice of his intention to bring in a bill for the abolition of church-rates.

TENANTS' COMPENSATION (IRELAND).

In answer to Mr. V. SCULLY, Lord PALMERSTON said the discouragement the Government had received last year in their attempts to assist in passing a TENANTS' COMPENSATION (IRELAND) BILL induced them to decline renewing the attempt this year.

THE GUARDS MEMORIAL.

In answer to Lord GODERICH, Mr. F. PEEL said the memorial presented by the officers of the Guards had been under consideration, and that it had been ascertained that the grounds on which it had been founded were erroneous, and no alteration would be made in the recent regulations, of which the officers of the Guards complained. (Cheers.)

THE ALIEN BILL AND COLONEL TURR.

In answer to Mr. T. DUNCOMBE, Lord PALMERSTON said the Government had no intention of proposing any law relating to aliens. (Cheers.) As to Colonel Turr, the Austrian government had declared themselves ready to deliver him up to any English authority which was prepared to receive him. (Cheers.)

In answer to Mr. ROEBUCK,

Lord PALMERSTON said there would be no indignity cast on Colonel Turr, but his liberation was to be pure and simple. (Cheers.)

JUVENILE REFORMATORIES.

In answer to Sir J. PAKINGTON,

Sir G. GREY said that the present system under which Juvenile Reformatories were regulated was adopted two years ago as an experiment, which had not yet been sufficiently tried to induce the Government at present to propose any change in the law.

NATIONAL EDUCATION.

Sir J. PAKINGTON expressed his regret that no mention of the subject of national education was made in her Majesty's speech, and wished to know whether it was to be taken up by the Government, or whether it was to be left only in the hands of a private member—Lord J. Russell?

Sir G. GREY said the Government fully recognised the value of the subject; but he thought Sir J. Pakington must himself feel the hopelessness of passing a bill of the comprehensive nature which he desired this session; but a bill would be brought in with the view of extending the present system as far as possible.

MR. ROEBUCK AND THE WAR.

Mr. BENTINCK complained of the opinions expressed by Mr. Roebuck in his speech on Thursday night with reference to the motives of England in going to war with Russia, and to the advisability of her carrying on the war alone, without caring about Allies.

Lord J. RUSSELL here interposed and brought back the subject of education, and said he intended to bring forward his views in the form of resolutions, for the purpose of putting the whole question before the House, which he thought better than introducing a Bill, which he had not much hope of carrying. He took the opportunity of expressing his gratification at the tone adopted by the House the night before in the great question of war and peace. He hoped that the feats of our soldiers at Sebastopol would be acknowledged by a vote of thanks from the House to the army.

Mr. ROEBUCK then replied to Mr. BENTINCK, and defended his speech in a few words of great energy.

The Report of the Address, in answer to the Throne, was then agreed to.

THE LAW OF PARTNERSHIP AND JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.

Mr. LOWE moved for leave to bring in two bills for amending the laws relating to Joint-Stock Companies and Partnership.

The Bills were, after a short discussion, brought in and read a first time.

The House adjourned shortly before 9.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House sat only for a quarter of an hour.

Lord LYNDRHURST gave notice of his intention to bring forward the question of the conferring a "life peerage" on Baron PARKE.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, Feb. 2.
CONVOCATION.

BOTH Houses of Convocation met at Westminster yesterday (Friday) morning, and, after discussing some points of little general interest, adjourned until Tuesday, April 15th.

IMPORTANT FROM PERSIA.

THE following important intelligence reaches us from a private source. We have reason to consider it authentic:—

"Teheran, 18th December.

"Dost Mahommed is not dead; he is marching

against Herat to avenge the murder of his son-in-law, Syd Mahommed.

"Mahommed Yousseuf, the present ruler of Herat, has applied to the Persians for assistance. 5,000 regular troops are under orders from Teheran; 2,000 of them left the capital yesterday.

"The Persian regular army in the province of Herat will then amount to about 10,000 men, to be commanded by Sultan Moorad Meerza, who is uncle of the Shah, and will proceed to Herat. 20,000 tomanes in cash and shawls have been handed over to him for distribution. The Persian government hope by this means to produce disturbances in British India.

"The expedition has been officially announced to the Russian, French, and Turkish missions, but not a word has been said to the representative of England about it."

THE NEGOTIATIONS.

PRUSSIA is not disposed to enter into any engagements with a view to taking part in the Paris conferences, but maintains her right to do so on the ground of the treaties of Vienna.

The Turkish envoy at Vienna has been empowered to sign the protocol if necessary.

The Austrian Ambassador, Count Esterhazy, has communicated to the Prussian Cabinet the projected proposal of Austria to the German Diet, for its accession to the accepted preliminaries.

THE CRIMEA.

PRINCE GORTSCHAKOFF, in quitting the Crimea, issued a short address to his army, which concluded by telling them that they had "defended the Crimean peninsula against a numerous enemy, which had the command of means unprecedented in the annals of war."

PORTUGAL.

GREAT distress prevails in Algarve and on the banks of the Tagus, owing to the recent rains and tempests. The Portuguese brig *Orient* has been lost on a rock near the Rock of Lisbon. The fog was intense; the ship split up; and only six of the crew were saved. One of the passengers, after being lodged upon the rock, was washed off again while in the act of kneeling in thankfulness for his short-lived preservation. The English brig *Standard*, from Alexandria, has also been wrecked; but the crew were saved.

LATEST FROM AMERICA.

THE latest news from America speaks of sundry contemplated "filibustering" expeditions—one for the liberation of Ireland by means of 100,000 American-Irish bayonets. Mr. Attorney-General Cushing, owing to representations from the British Minister, has directed the attention of the United States Attorney-General at New York to these combinations, and ordered him to use every effort to prevent any such infringement on the relations of amity with Great Britain, and to punish all offenders. John Mitchell has delivered an address on "The Ripening of the Revolution in Ireland," full of frantic abuse of England; and the Irish are doing their best to stir up hostilities with this country. Commodore Paulding has been acting against an officer of the late Government of Nicaragua driven out by Walker, under pretence of his being a bandit. If this be true, Commodore Paulding's interference was a military act by the United States in favour of Walker.

At the latest dates, the Speaker at Washington was not yet elected.

THE NIGHTINGALE FUND.

The Committee of the "Nightingale Fund" report that Miss Nightingale has "signified her cordial acceptance of the proposal made to her—to place at her disposal a fund, to enable her to establish an institution for the training, sustenance, and protection of nurses and hospital attendants"—and has named the following to act as her Council in conjunction with Mr. Sidney Herbert and Mr. Bracebridge; viz:—Lord Ellesmere, Col. Jebb, C.B.; Sir James Clark, Bart., M.D.; Wm. Bowman, Esq., F.R.C.S.; the Dean of Hereford; Sir John McNeil; Dr. Bence Jones. Miss Nightingale expresses herself satisfied with the constitution of the General Committee. In a letter accompanying her acceptance of the scheme, she declines to give a prospectus of her plans, both from the futility of "rules and regulations made beforehand," and from the impossibility in the midst of one overpowering work of digesting and concocting another. This admirable letter, the Report truly says, "argues well for the practical spirit in which this task is about to be undertaken."

ODESSA.—The bank of Odessa has for the second time suspended payment.

THE JESUITS have been expelled from Mexico, and the Envoy of that Republic has been recalled from Rome.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ERRATA IN OUR PARIS LETTER LAST WEEK.—Owing to an accident, the opening sentences of our letter from Paris last week were rendered almost unintelligible by a congeries of typographical errors. We think it worth while to restore those paragraphs to sense. They were written as follows:—"There has indeed been no lack of materials of late;—the entry of the troops (a real circus melodrame, which, I must allow, was a complete success, for *Chauvins** we are, and *Chauvins* we shall be for a long time to come);—the recital of the students announced by the hisses bestowed on the drama at the Odéon (*La Florentine*), and upon the tures of M. Nisard, who, some twenty-three years since, was one of the writers of the *National*, in company with Sainte-Beuve, at the time when the *National* was conducted by Armand Carrel;—the funeral of David d'Angers, and the oration of Béranger, with the numerous arrests that followed." The foot-note should have read thus:—

* "*Chauvin* is an epithet made out of a proper name, and given in vaudevilles and melodramas to the old trouper en retraite, who weeps over his moustaches as he contemplates the picture of the *Grand Homme*."

ERRATA.—In our last number, p. 91, in the review of De Vere's "Stray Leaves," for "which is the fig-tree of India," read "white in the fig-tree of India," and for "Boujé," read "Bouicee."

THE NIGHTINGALE FUND.—We regret that the report of the Committee reached us too late for insertion this week. We have found space for an epitome of it in our Post-script.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith.

It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. Their insertion is often delayed, owing to a press of matter; and when omitted, it is frequently from reasons quite independent of the merits of the communication.

Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. During the Session of Parliament it is often impossible to find room for correspondence, even the briefest.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1856.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—*DR. ANSOLD.*

OUR RELATIONS WITH AMERICA.

If we may trust the *Morning Post*, we are on the point of sending out a fleet to make war upon the United States. The alleged ground is, that the Government of the American Republic has not been satisfied with the reparation made in the case of the recruitment. The reader must bear in mind that while the recruitment question was suffered to grow into a dispute, where no dispute ought to have arisen, the real bad blood is provoked by a want of straightforwardness in the strict observance of treaty stipulations. At present, however, according to our contemporary, the hazard of quarrel rests entirely upon the recruitment question. Now how does that stand?

The *Morning Post* takes two grounds. In the first place, that sufficient reparation has been made. There are two parties to the decision of that question, and England cannot decide it for herself. If America is not satisfied, England has not done enough to secure the purpose of all reparation, and her only alternative would be to cancel the wrong done. As we do not know the amount of apology which Great Britain has made for violating through her agents the laws of the United States, we are not capable of giving our own judgment on the moral sufficiency of the reparation. We very much doubt, however, whether our statesmen who have the prefix of "Lord" to their names, are willing to make that genuine apology which was demanded by the case.

In the second place, it is maintained that no wrong was committed. We will state a parallel.

"In the year 1793, Citizen Genet, the first Minister of the French Republic, signalled the commence-

ment of his diplomatic career in the United States by fitting out, in the American ports, privateers to cruise against English commerce—England being a power with whom the United States was at peace, although she was at war with France. Citizen Genet answered the remonstrances addressed to him by Washington, who naturally wished to preserve a position of honourable neutrality, by a most insolent letter, appealing from the President to the people; and Washington forthwith sent him his passports."

There is much parallelism between this case and the present: the grand difference is that GENET appealed from President to people, which CRAMPTON has not done; but the main principle is exactly the same, an infraction of the law and a violation of "neutrality. What account of the precedent have we copied? That given by the *Morning Post*.

It is contended that Mr. CRAMPTON is not implicated as GENET was, because the English Government issued a circular stipulating that agents should do no acts which should constitute a violation of the law within the United States, or bear the appearance of recruiting within the jurisdiction of the United States; otherwise parties must expect no aid or assistance from the British Government. This is very good, as a safeguard against the acts of agents, but it does not do with regard to third parties. If I hire a man to trespass in the garden of my neighbour, and tell him to bring away certain things that he may find there, I do not exonerate myself from an action for trespass, by telling him that he must not violate the law of property, or do anything that looks like stealing. It is true that HERTZ, STROBEL, and the other agents flagrantly violated the law, and ostentatiously flaunted their connexion with the English Government; so that our Government, by its agents, directly violated that enactment of the Neutrality Act, which declares that persons should not be invited in the Union to go forth and be enlisted beyond the territories of the United States. We told our agents to do an illegal thing in a legal manner, and they betrayed us; but we have to apologise to the Union for sending them there at all, and the apology ought to be ample.

If we are too proud to apologise, our only course is to cancel the wrong done, and leave the question in *statu quo*. The first step would be to withdraw the chief of the agents who had so mismanaged the affair. Now, nobody casts much moral blame on Mr. CRAMPTON; but he is officially the chief agent. If the express wish of the Union had been carried out, and he had been withdrawn from a post where he will no longer be useful, all subsequent difficulty might have been avoided. This might have been done without humiliation to our Government or to Mr. CRAMPTON. He might have been promoted to a higher post—to the St. Petersburg embassy, for example, which is to be revived just as the English legation at Washington is to be dropped.

Our Government chooses neither of the alternatives, but elects the *tertium quid*. The *Morning Post* hints that America has resolved upon the course described, "in ignorance that we are to be at peace with Russia;" implying that the Americans would dare to resist us if we were at war, but not if we were disengaged. We need not point out the insulting character of such language. Our contemporary continues:—

"The naval power of England, never more fully developed than at present, comprises a force of ships-of-the-line, frigates, and mortar and gun-boats, in comparison with which the entire navy of the United States is but a weak and inefficient squadron, and will, with a certainty of peace, be set at liberty, to act in vindication of the national honour, in whatever quarter it may be assailed."

The Americans are told to consider whether a war should be rashly and weakly provoked,

which should sweep American commerce from the seas, and "lay the seaboard of the Union open to the attacks of the greatest naval power in the world." Our contemporary, therefore, somewhat more than hints that our navy is to be sent to "sweep American commerce from the seas."

What will cotton-consuming manufacturing Lancashire say to that? What will Birmingham, Bristol, Glasgow, or London? We put the question distinctly. Are Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Glasgow, Bristol, London, and half the British islands, prepared to see the English navy "sweep American commerce from the seas," raising a storm in those seas which will intercept so vast a portion of *English* commerce? And all for what? Because our Government allowed itself to be involved in the petty treacheries of agents whom it sent to execute an illegal act.

THE PEACE IN PARLIAMENT.

ON the subject of the war, Parliament represents the unquestionable opinion of the country. It is felt by the vast majority in and out of the Houses, that a Treaty concluded at this moment with Russia would be a sacrifice to the sentiment of Peace. Our Plenipotentiary at Paris, therefore, will have a right to maintain, in their amplitude, the principles declared by the English Cabinet: for Great Britain has not been forced to propose a pacification. The Legislature and the public concur in thinking that Russia is now negotiating under circumstances more favourable to herself than those which would probably result from a third campaign. It is acknowledged, perhaps reluctantly, that if she concedes the original object of the war, no grounds will exist for postponing the peace. Lord CLARENDON declares that the negotiations will be conducted on the part of England with sincerity, and that the just claims of every Government will be respected. But it is equally clear that the submission of Russia must be real, and that the securities obtained must be effectual. A treaty concluded upon any other basis would ruin the character of every statesman concerned in it.

In the policy of the Austrian and French Cabinets there is sufficient guarantee that no immoderate concessions will be required from Russia. It cannot be the object of either of those Governments to humble or to exasperate her. The peace is for her benefit, no less than for their own. Consequently, there is no foundation for the idea that Lord PALMERSTON has amplified the demands of the Western Powers, so far as to increase the difficulty of pacifications. The only danger is, that the principles which have been, to this point, asserted, may be forsaken, and that Russia may obtain peace without purchasing it by adequate concessions.

The document called the QUEEN'S speech contains, on the subject of the war, only a statement, part of which is untrue, prefixed to a platitude, from which we learn nothing. To say that Sebastopol "has yielded" is to exaggerate the event of last September. Sebastopol was a group of fortresses, some of which are still held in great force by the enemy. Not only are the Russians on the north side preparing for an obstinate defence, they literally defend, from that position, the most important cities of the Crimea. The Allies could not quit Sebastopol, to march on other points, without leaving a powerful army of investment. Simpheropol and Baktchi-Serai, the seat of government and the depository of the administration have never been attacked. The occupation of the Crimea has only advanced a step. Neither of the allied nations, therefore, can claim a conquest.

It is, then, a mistake to suppose that in the event of an unsuccessful negotiation, the war

would not present risks and difficulties. High as the national spirit might rise, much as the efficiency of our armament may have been increased, Russia has almost incomparable facilities of defence. Whether we fight or negotiate, it is as well to think calmly, to avoid exaggeration and bluster.

Such is the tone of Parliament. In that assembly, the opinion undoubtedly reigns that another campaign would have illustrated more signally than hitherto the powers and resources of the English nation. At the same time, to reject reasonable terms of peace would involve a moral loss, and give a more favourable colour to the Russian cause. Accordingly the Houses assent with obvious reserve to the policy of negotiation.

LORD CLARENDON, who was more explicit than the Premier, acknowledged that the Russian acceptance of the Austrian proposal, was accompanied by the suggestion of an armistice, and that this had been conceded by the Allies. But he made no reference to the "additional propositions," contenting himself with stating, simply, that he believed in the sincerity of Russia, that the Allies were themselves sincere, and that nothing would be exacted to degrade or inflame the Russian Government.

So far, therefore, the representatives of the several Powers will meet on common ground. England is ready, France is anxious, for peace. To Austria peace is safety, to Russia relief. It restores the natural relations of dynasties—unites the absolutisms now at war, and leaves the French and English alliance to depend, as all real alliances must depend, on mutual respect and confidence, instead of mutual aid, which is, at times, the source of jealousy, and which does not always lead to the brotherhood of armies.

Assuming that the negotiations prosper, and that peace is established, there will be some cause for congratulation. We shall have passed through a crisis, in which our reputation has been imperilled by the apathy and incapacity of our governing class. To them will the public mind be turned, to discover what guarantees may be secured in the event of another war, against the risks we have lately run. We may not always monopolise the offensive in warfare. How, then, can the national power be so organised that, if unhappy contests should arise, we may meet its dangers without taking two years to prepare an army and a fleet, without losing prestige and surrendering the predominance to an ally? In this war we have not had one complete success. Our navy has been a mere auxiliary. But we have now prepared the machinery of a real campaign, by land and sea, so that, we repeat, we are not negotiating with Russia from any inability to enforce by arms the objects which will be contended for at the Congress.

THE CLAIMS OF SARDINIA.

We trust that no disposition exists in the British and French Cabinets to assign to the representative of Sardinia a secondary place at the approaching Congress. Whatever may have been done by Austria as a mediator, Sardinia has done something as a belligerent. It is now a proper time, therefore, to consider under what circumstances the Piedmontese government joined its forces with those of the Western Powers, and what are the political necessities created by that alliance. It is generally supposed that the premonitory symptoms of peace were viewed with no gratification at Turin, and it has been imputed to VICTOR EMMANUEL that he desired a general convulsion, out of which a prize might be thrown up for Sardinia. We have no difficulty in conceiving that any patriotic

Italian, upon the outbreak of an European war, might anticipate changes favourable to Italy; but, without taking remote probabilities into calculation, Piedmont has reason to suspect an Austrian peace. It is no secret that when VICTOR EMMANUEL was in England he already understood that, if the Western Powers were reconciled to Russia, he might be sacrificed to a quietus of diplomacy. Could he, or the nation he governs, be assured that they had not exasperated old jealousies, without securing new friendships? It was this scepticism that was expressed by the more impatient Liberals in Turin, and we are not sure that VICTOR EMMANUEL went from London better satisfied than when he came.

Justice and sound policy require that we should remember the circumstances under which Sardinia was drawn into the alliance. She did not occupy an independent position. It may be said, in fact, that she had but the alternative of adopting the cause of the Western Powers, or suffering for her neutrality. Diplomacy, of course, would be a clumsy process if it left, in written documents, the record of its menacing insinuations; but, in effect, Sardinia was challenged to choose between the hazards of an alliance with the Western Powers and the dangers of Austrian hostility, with the jealousy of another Government in the background. The kindlier pressure was probably exerted by England: possibly, indeed, this Italian covenant was sought to aid in counterbalancing the preponderance, visible from the beginning of the war, of French arms and counsels. Had the congress of pacificators been appointed to meet in London, we should probably have heard no whisper of the diplomatic subordination of Sardinia.

The incident in Tuscany, combined with others, had proved to Sardinia that she stood in need of guarantees; not against Austria only; since it cannot be for the interest of any absolute Government that free institutions should prosper in Italy. It was therefore partly with the object of providing herself with these guarantees that Sardinia pledged herself to share the exertions and sacrifices of the Western Powers. To those who knew the state of feeling at Turin, it was obvious that a thoughtful section of the public dissented from the adopted policy because it doubted the good faith of the English governing classes. Count CAVOUR scarcely procured credit for his patriotism in promoting the alliance; but his views on the subject are not unknown. When the war commenced, was he blind to the possibility of Sardinia being dragged into it? When the pressure of the British representations was felt in VICTOR EMMANUEL'S Cabinet, was Count CAVOUR ignorant of the risk? Was the public kept uninformed? The *Diritto*, the leading liberal journal, pointed out clearly the perils of the future: the *Piemonte*, with less sincerity, hinted at them.

We must not forget that Sardinia, when she took the field against Russia, acted with rare courage and magnanimity. She was not a military Power; her prosperity was insecure; her armies had recently come out of the exhausting Austrian war; with a population not double that of London, she had considerable frontiers to guard, and was entering upon a process of radical internal reform. At such a crisis, with hostile or suspicious Governments on all sides, did Sardinia engage in a great war, by the side of England and France.

The war has gained for her the recognition of Europe. It has brought prestige to her army, and importance to her Cabinet. But it has taxed her revenue, which, after many disasters, required assiduous cultivation; it has arrested the course of liberal innovation, and has thus produced only mitigated advantages.

If, however, it has created for Sardinia positive claims on England, Count CAVOUR'S policy would have been patriotic and wise, even if it had not been inevitable. Has it created such claims? The question may test the good faith of the British Government, and of the British nation, if ever the nation assert a policy of its own. At all events, right-minded men, in and out of Parliament, must perceive that there was no justification of the policy which dragged Sardinia into the Western alliance, unless her aid is to be reciprocated by the support of England in her eventual difficulties. It is impossible to deny that we are morally pledged to maintain the independence of our Italian allies, so long as they respect the public law of Europe. To give effect to this principle, the claims of VICTOR EMMANUEL'S representative must be recognised on an equality with the great Powers, at the Paris Congress. It would, indeed, be a reproach upon the British name, if, in our need, we enticed a weak State into war, and left it afterwards to struggle for existence with overbearing enemies. What Sardinia requires is the avowed political sympathy of England. That will be one guarantee—to her of independence; to Europe, perhaps, of peace.

LORD WENSLEYDALE AND LIFE PEERAGES.

A GRAND debate is announced for next week, on a high constitutional question. As the *Morning Herald* is the organ for the announcement, we suppose that the good old Tory party is about to stand up for the British Constitution against the innovation caused by the creation of Mr. Baron PARKE to be Baron WENSLEYDALE for the term of his natural life.

The *Morning Herald* states that all the Law Lords are of opinion that this creation of life peerages is unconstitutional and open to the gravest abuses. It is difficult to say what is unconstitutional or not, inasmuch as the Constitution is totally undefined, and has been nibbled away by modern Acts of Parliament until the law of the country is about as unconstitutional a thing as exists in the world. The best exponent of the British Constitution, perhaps, consists in the Bill of Rights, with its glorious antecedents, the Great Charter. And yet, if any Englishman were to take the trouble of perusing the Charter exacted for the people when the ORANGE dynasty was established on the throne, he would find that we have desperately fallen away from that high standard of the British Constitution. A Law Lord more or less, though we are not to have the sons of the same to boot, will not make much difference. But the argument, of course, is this,—that if the Crown can appoint life peerages, it will hold in its hands the means of swamping the real Peers, and will undermine and overthrow the hereditary character of the peerage. This is rather true, and it is quite possible that popularity-hunting Ministers might crowd the House of Lords with professional men, railway directors, great contractors, and all the rich and clever outcasts of the Commons, as tenants for life. But, really, there seems to be no reason to suspect such a design in the present act. It originates in the difficulty of keeping up a sufficient number of Law Lords to do the business; and those we have are most of them getting very old. The judges once sat as a constituent part of the grand council of the nation—the Parliament. They slipped out of their place in the reign of EDWARD the THIRD, and became "assistants." They had disappeared before the Revolution, and Lord SOMERS vainly tried to bring them back into the House by summons—even scolded them in vain. The scanty allowance of Law Lords is eked out by making a couple of Lay Lords to sit with them and represent

the Peers; the Law Lords meddling not with law, but constituting a kind of speaking dummy to deliver judgment when there is no Lord Judge in presence. If retiring judges are created peers for life, we get a recruitment of this section of the highest court of appeal, while we avoid saddling the country with provisions for succeeding peers—perhaps also saddling the country with foolish heirs who do not inherit their fathers' capacity, certainly not their fathers' law education.

THE POOR SHAREHOLDER.

WE appeal from General Meeting drunk, to General Meeting sober, on behalf of the most helpless creature of the community—"The Original Shareholder." The question of his property, of his actual salvation, is urgent. The judgment of the general meeting in the matter of BRUCE and others *versus* WADDINGTON and Co., is the condemnation of the Original Shareholder. The case for the prosecution appeared to us to be perfectly clear, and it has not been effectually gainsaid. The Committee of Investigation have shown that the amalgamated company has launched into all kinds of collateral enterprises—the line that is tenanted by Messrs. PETO, BATES, and BRASSEY, the Coal Company with which Mr. Gooch was connected, the steam-boats and port in which the Chairman has had an interest, the dancing saloon at Woolwich on which a local officer had set his heart, and a variety of other undertakings in which strangers had primary concern; while the Eastern Counties Railway has literally been made the path for those strangers at the cost of the proprietors. This is a totally new view of the uses of a Railway Company. Certain persons were invited to put together their money for the purpose of establishing and carrying on the Eastern Counties Railway; and they did put together their money for the purpose. It is quite evident that if they had stuck to their purpose, they would have built their railway, have carried on the traffic, and have made a profit by the investment and the business. But somebody else thought that other undertakings might be made profitable by using the Eastern Counties as a stepping stone. A new capital was required; the foundation of another capital is called an extension of the Eastern Counties capital, which gives the intruders, with those members of the original company that have alien interests, a right of coming in and managing the Eastern Counties. But the new part of the Company is to take its dividends in the name of "preference shares," before the original proprietors. The junior partner is to take his profits first!

The plan which is applicable in one case, is applicable in a hundred others. It is as easy for a Tilbury line Company to be a junior partner in the Eastern Counties as a Lowestoft Harbour Company, or an Antwerp Boat Company, or a Dancing Saloon Company; and on this plan of allowing the stranger to come in and manage, they can so arrange that the Original Shareholder shall lend his money to the junior partners, while the junior partners shall take their profits first.

The idea should be caught up in other branches of business. A man wants to establish an oyster saloon in the neighbourhood of Professor ANDERSON. The incitement of an oyster saloon, especially if it be calculated to attract noble and distinguished convives, tends to the circulation of cash, and is beneficial, therefore, to the Banks. Now any enterprising Director of one of the new Metropolitan Joint-Stock Banks would see the policy of encouraging the oyster saloon. The process is clear. Let a large capital for the founding of the Saloon be formed into shares; let some of

the shares be offered to the original Bank proprietors; let the two enterprises be amalgamated under the name of the "Eastern and Western Banking and Oyster Company;" let the Oyster interest be allowed to vote by proxy; let the new shares take the profits by preference, and we shall have the exact parallel of the Eastern Counties anomaly.

The Bank probably would be left without profits on the original shares, or with a sixpenny profit at the best; but the amalgamated dividends siding off in the preference shares to the Oyster interest might be considerable while the oyster season lasted. Broughams and Hansoms would bring the lordly, honourable, and distinguished representatives of the Oyster interest to lead the eloquence at the general meeting of the Banking and Oyster, with proxies in their pockets. The "policy of peace" between banking and oysters would display its star-spangled banner of union, and the meeting would give its triumphant vote to the NAPOLEON of the alliance; but the grave business bankers would shake their heads, and turn round to see in what court they could find redress?

In none. This amalgamation dodge, this paying away of dividends in the name of preference shares, is a manœuvre not within the cognisance of the Courts, civil or criminal.

At the close of the poll on Tuesday we find that, of the number of persons present, 508 voted for the Committee of Investigation and a business management of the railway, 160 voted for Mr. WADDINGTON, the peace policy, and that "making things pleasant" which carries off shares. The absentee shareholders preponderate against the present proprietors through the proxies in the pockets of Mr. WADDINGTON and his supporters. It is clear that according to the dominant railway system, where amalgamations and extensions are admitted, the poor Original Shareholder is at the mercy of intruding speculators, absentees, and alien shareholders.

A KINGDOM SEQUESTERED.

ONE cannot avoid feeling something like awe at the startling brevity of the electric telegraph. Plain facts are stated in such plain terms. There is no periphrasis, no attempt to disguise the naked truth. A pregnant sentence of a couple of lines announces a victory, or a defeat, and the death of so many thousands of human beings. There is nothing which surpasses it in suggestiveness, unless it be a common almanac with such an entry as this: "June 18th. Battle of Waterloo, 1815." At another time we read in a few words, that the ruler of millions of men died at such an hour,—not many minutes before we received the news, though, perhaps, a thousand miles or so away. The next day, it may be, it is told with equal calmness that a dozen ships with all their crews have gone to the bottom, and on the morrow that a kingdom has been sequestered. A man becomes deeply involved in debt—his creditors obtain the sequestration of his estate. A clergyman lives fast and outruns the constable, as they say, and his living is sequestered. This is quite intelligible, and it is also quite fair. But we have not yet become accustomed to the idea of treating an entire country as the estate of one man. It therefore sounds strange to hear that "the kingdom of Oude has been sequestered." Among the so-called liberal nations of Europe the idea has for some time been gaining ground that the sovereign was the chief servant of the people; in the East, it appears, the people are still the property of the sovereign. The King of OUDE has long since afforded us many legitimate subjects of complaint. We complained accordingly, but

could obtain no redress. We have, therefore, attached his property. This would be the natural course to pursue in a civil process for the recovery of a debt. But it is not on such grounds that we have put in an execution against MAHOMMED AMJUD ALI. We do not pretend that he is a defaulter, or that we have any pecuniary claims against him. We accuse him of malversation of his people's revenue, of cruelty, oppression, and other felonious practices. And yet we avoid proceeding against a criminal. We simply place Colonel OUTRAM in possession. He is the Government bailiff—Lord DALHOUSIE's "sedentary man." The motive for adopting this line of conduct is very apparent. It was no doubt deemed inconsistent to annex a kingdom in Asia, while we are waging war in Europe to prevent Russia from doing precisely the same thing, and on very similar grounds. Appearances must be kept up at any cost. The national "respectability" must be maintained, for that alone, now-a-days, distinguishes us from the rest of the world. We do not indeed object to stretch a point where merely crime is involved, if any advantage may be thence derived; but we protest strenuously against a scandal. In the very heart of the British oak there lives a toad "ugly and venomous." It is torpid, indeed, but its poison exudes through the sturdy timbers of the tree—the rough bark alone conceals its action. That toad is called among men, "Respectability;" to the gods it is known as "Hypocrisy." "Behold our forbearance," we say to the world. "We might justly have annexed the kingdom of Oude; but we respected your prejudices—it is only sequestered." The distinction is certainly ingenious.

Ancient PISTOL held it a sign of wisdom to call theft, "conveyance." In like manner we plume ourselves on waiving the honest process of annexation—we merely take possession. This is more in accordance with the spirit and habits of a commercial people. The costs will be thus increased. Besides, a more tangible grievance is likely to arise out of such an anomaly. And then we shall be compelled to reduce Oude to the state of a province, pleading in justification the ill effects of our present forbearance. It may possibly be a highly respectable mode of proceeding, but it is assuredly neither wise nor dignified; just as it may be more genteel to make two bites of a cherry, than to put the whole fruit into one's mouth; though in the former case there is danger of blunting one's teeth upon the stone, while in the latter the impediment may be ejected after baring it to the shell. The illustration is homely, and therefore suitable to a homely subject—sequestration; a subject that comes home to very many of us, now that we all live beyond our incomes—all the more easy, that few have any real income to live upon. But how came the country and people of Oude to be the property of MAHOMMED AMJUD ALI? It is worth while to cast a hasty glance at the rise and progress of that now famous kingdom.

During the decadence of the empire of the GREAT MOGUL the viceroyalty of Oude became hereditary in the family of SAADUT KHAN. The real name of this successful adventurer was MAHOMMED AMEEN, but having made himself useful to his Sovereign in ridding him of a troublesome subject, he was appointed Viceroy of Oude, with the above-mentioned title. His nephew and successor, SUFDER JUNG, was invested with the Vizierat, but without losing his viceroyalty. He again was succeeded by his son, SOOJAH-ODD-DOWLAH, who, having provoked the animosity of the British authorities by the countenance he afforded to COSSIM ALI, lived to see British troops in possession of his capital city, Luck-

now. The Court of Directors, however, took alarm at what they designated the "demented" ambition of their servants, and forbade any further enlargement of their territories. This was in 1765. A few years later, this same SOOJAH-OD-DOWLAH hired an English brigade from WARREN HASTINGS and his Council, to enable him to execute his schemes against the Rohillahs. In 1775, he was succeeded by his son, ASOPH-OD-DOWLAH, the fourth of the family who held the vicereignty, and the third to whom the vizierat had descended. The Calcutta Council, however, made him pay for a renewal of the treaty with his father, and compelled him to cede Benares and Ghazepore, and to raise the monthly subsidy from £21,000 to £26,000, as the price of their recognition of his accession. Twenty-three years later SAADUT ALI was likewise obliged to purchase the protection of the Governor-General on yet more arduous terms. He had to cede the fortress of Allahabad, with £80,000 for the repair of its works, besides paying £150,000 on other pretexts, and to raise the annual subsidy to £760,000 for the maintenance of a force of 10,000 men. The Marquis of WELLESLEY, the next Governor-General, applied the screw with still greater severity. He not only insisted upon the disbandment of a large portion of the Oude army, and the substitution of a strong British Contingent in its stead, but he also extorted the territorial cession of Rohilkund, in lieu of the payment of a subsidy; these lands, even at that time, yielding more than £1,350,000 per annum. This treaty was signed in 1801, and rendered the Nawab little better than a cipher in his own dominions. SAADUT ALI died in 1816, and was succeeded by his son, GHAZEE-OD-DEEN-HYDER, to the unbounded satisfaction of the Resident, and also of the Calcutta Government. Three years later, the Nawab was instigated by Lord HASTINGS to assume the title of King, and to renounce even nominal allegiance to the wretched puppet who represented the Great Mogul dynasty at Delhi. It was a childish policy, for the imperial power was long since effete, whereas under a really able ruler the kingdom of Oude might have become a thorn in the side of the British possessions. However, each successive king has been weaker and worse than his predecessor, until at last the measure of their iniquities is full and overflowing. By the treaty of 1837, the right was specifically ceded to us of taking into our own hands the management of every misgoverned district. But the entire country is misgoverned, the people universally oppressed. The kingdom of Oude, therefore, is justly forfeited. And yet to avoid an idle clamour, we hesitate to adopt a measure that will eventually become an inevitable necessity. We have now assumed the reins of Government. We have appointed a British officer as responsible minister. We have taken all power out of the hands of the king, but we insult him with the semblance and insignia of royalty. Far more honest would it have been to have invited the people of Oude to elect for themselves, either to pass absolutely under British sway, or to be left entirely to themselves to settle their grievances with their own Sovereign in their own way. Half measures are ever objectionable. They evince weakness or vacillation, and require double the effort to complete them, which would have sufficed in the first instance.

HARRIET MARTINEAU'S PROUDHONISM.

LEGISLATION specially protects large numbers who are collected into factories. The machinery in these great buildings moves with immense power and rapidity; he who puts himself in the way of its beams is liable

to be crushed, or mauled, or killed. Factory owners have at times been reckless, either through cold-bloodedness or through penury; people have been killed through the fault of their masters; pity has been excited, indignation aroused, Parliament invoked, and we have statutes to prevent mill-owners from letting their hands be killed. This led to the enforcement of the dormant Factory Acts of 1833 and 1844, which remained unenforced for nine years. But in 1853 the factory inspectors brought under notice an "enormous amount" of accidents caused by contact with machinery, and hence a much more active intervention. Now Miss MARTINEAU incontinently assails the facts and the conclusions. "The facts," she cries, are "enormous" only in their exaggeration; the conclusions are entirely fallacious, and

The whole number of accidents from machinery, in three years, was reported to be 11,716, of which 3,434 were of a serious character. The serious ones are all that require any notice, as the others are of so slight a nature that they would not be noticed anywhere but in a special registration like that provided by the Factory Act. For instance, 700 are cases of cut fingers. Any worker who rubs off a bit of skin from finger or thumb, or sustains the slightest cut which interferes with the spinning process for a single day, has the injury registered under the Act. Now, it should be observed that, of the whole number of accidents in three years, 128 had occurred from shafts; that is, about 42 in a year. Of the 128, 35 resulted in death, or a fraction above 11 in a year. In other words, the number of persons affected by the factory law being from 500,000 to 600,000, the proportion injured in any way by accident from this cause is (assuming the lowest number of people) about one in 12,000; and the proportion of deaths among them is about one in 45,000. This is the proportion on the showing of the Inspectors; and those who care to institute a comparison between the danger of this and other modes of occupation will find that in no other is the proportion of deaths so small.

The coroners' reports show that, in the factory districts, the fatal accidents from carts and other agencies concerned in labour were 79 to 29 in factories; and of the factory accidents, not five per cent. are owing to machinery. In the year preceding that in which the Inspectors made their appeal to Lord Palmerston, there were 12 deaths from factory machinery in the whole kingdom; whereas the deaths from other accidents, in Manchester alone, were 531. By as near a computation as can be made in the imperfect state of our statistics, the number of fatal accidents in the United Kingdom averages about 5,000, of which 12 are cases of mill accidents from all kinds of factory machinery.*

There might be some force in this argument if the counterfactuals on which it is founded were not, as it now appears, utterly disproved and the figures "cooked;" but we cannot take the case isolated from other questions that properly belong to the subject. It is true that when mills are well constructed, under the care of owners who have the conscientiousness and the means for causing the machinery to be well made, the danger is minimised, and such owners require no compulsion from the law. We are not to presume, however, that other owners, less conscientious or less in command of means, would keep their machinery up to the standard of efficiency and safety, if there were not some check more immediate and potent than their own intelligence and prudence, or the indignation of their work-people.

There is, indeed, a much larger consideration. Miss MARTINEAU proposes to leave the settlement of injury between man and man to the common law—non-intervention. The principle is not to be accepted without examination; but at all events, if it is to be accepted, it must not be on one side

* "The Factory Controversy; a warning against meddling legislation. By Harriet Martineau. Issued by the National Association of Factory Occupiers, 13, Corporation-street, Manchester."—This pamphlet is, in fact, an article very properly declined, on account of the distressing violence and reckless abuse, the *muliebris impotentia* of its tone, by the *Westminster Review*. It has already received a crushing reply, written with admirable temper and conclusiveness, in *Household Words*.

only. If the law is not to interfere between millowner and worker for the sake of the worker, neither must it interfere for the sake of the owner. Let us see how the factory hands are brought into the factory. Some of them were in their own persons, or in the persons of their parents, brought up from the rural districts by the agents of the State, under the stringent operations of the New Poor Law. They were brought for the purpose of reducing poor rates in the rural districts, wages in the factory districts. They are lodged in the middle of factory labour by fate, and must accept that mode of life which lies to their hand. They may be divided into four classes,—children, "young persons," women, and men. The children are the slaves of their parents, they have no choice whether they shall enter the factory or not; they cannot leave it, if the machinery is unsafe for them. Their parents, whom the State empowers to use them as slaves, in too many cases feel no conscientious duty to look after their life or limb. Children, then, are not free agents, and the State has interfered to place them where they are; is it to leave them unprotected? The "young persons" are in somewhat the same predicament; though, in fact, not under such complete bondage. The law would compel them to obey their parents, but fact permits them to do otherwise; they can leave a mill where the machinery is unsafe, if they are prepared to throw themselves out of work, and to run the risk of starvation. The women are almost as much under bondage to their husbands as their children—they are not free agents. Even the men can only choose between such employment as the factories give, with circumstances as they are, or want of work, which is want of food. A man who is unemployed in this country is a vagrant; he becomes amenable to the Poor-law; he can be put in prison. None of these persons, then, are free agents. If we do not admit the necessity of interference to protect them against dangerous machinery, we ought to abolish interference which compels them to be there. We ought to leave the child its free will; to recognise the emancipation of young persons; to tell women that they shall not expose themselves to the Juggernaut at the dictate of their husbands; and with respect to the men, we ought to repeal those laws which restrain them from idleness, from combination, or from any other measures that they may take against the factory owner, short of directly invading his life and property. If you invoke the doctrine of non-intervention, carry it out, and repeal ninety-nine hundredths of our statutes.

But the same rule applies outside the walls of the factory. Admit the doctrine of non-intervention, and how large a portion of our compulsory statutes would fall to the ground? Admit that the dictates of conscience, "enlightened self-interest," affection, and other instructive or intellectual influences would suffice, and you must cut up, root and branch, the larger portion of our moral and political system. There is something to be said for that side of the question.

CANDIDATES AND CONSCIENCES: OR, A TALE OF A TRICK.

THE rival powers of Cork-street and Great George-street, the Sanitary Reformers and the Engineers, represented respectively by Mr. F. O. Ward and Mr. Robert Stephenson, have had, during the past week, a fierce encounter, in which Great George-street has won a numerical victory, while Mr. Ward and his friends have achieved a moral triumph.

The matter in dispute was the engineership of the Metropolitan Board of Works; and the question on which it turned was a question not of engineering skill, but of personal integrity. The par-

stars, so far as we have been enabled to glean them from documents before the public, and from special inquiry of our own, are shortly as follows:

Mr. Bazalgette, the protégé of Mr. Stephenson, was naturally adopted as the candidate of Great George-street, whose denizens came forth, as one man, with a blaze of testimonials, in Bazalgette's honour and glory. True, two of these testimonials (their number was nine in all) were signed respectively by Robert Stephenson and Sir W. Cubitt, Mr. Bazalgette's associates in the main drainage scheme impugned by Mr. Ward as £874,000 too costly: so that their commendations had some little tincture of indirect self-praise. Two more, signed respectively by Mr. Simpson and Mr. Hawksley, were the testimonials of men, one associated with Mr. Bazalgette in patching up the Victoria sewer (that monument of engineering skill!) the other Mr. Bazalgette's algebraic prompter, and purveyor of the duplicate formula, whereby he justified his own tunnels, while discrediting those of his rival, "plain John Roe." A fifth bore the name of Bidder, Mr. Stephenson's partner; while the remaining four, signed respectively by Brunel, Hawkshaw, Rendel, and Hardwick, were the contributions of gentlemen who sit with Messrs. Stephenson, Cubitt, and the rest, as members of the Council of the Institution of Civil Engineers. Thus, in point of fact, the nine certificates were virtually one; and that one was a party manifesto, imbued, as we have pointed out, with a considerable tincture of self-praise.

Mr. Rawlinson was the champion selected by the Sanitary Reformers to do battle, nominally with Mr. Bazalgette, but really with the formidable engineering phalanx above enumerated. No brilliant names adorned Mr. Rawlinson's modest circular; nor did he rely, to use his own words, on the "multiplied eulogies of professional friends." Preferring works to words, he gave a list of fifty towns that he had drained; and sent round a sheetful of resolutions passed by Town Councils and Local Boards, in testimony of the economy and efficiency of his works.

The city "giants," led by Mr. Lowman Taylor, sided with Great George-street, and espoused the cause of Bazalgette. An active canvass, backed by the united influence of the Corporation and the Engineers, speedily won over a score or so of waverers; so that, two days before the election, Mr. Bazalgette stood safe to win.

The "metropolitan party" (so called because they venture to prefer the interests of 2,350,000 people, inhabiting 100 square miles, to the interests of 150,000, inhabiting one square mile), adopted the candidate put forward by the Sanitary Reformers; and did their best to secure the return of Rawlinson.

But the metropolitan members lie scattered far and wide, and are not as yet organised and disciplined like the practised electioneers of the City. They could not—probably they would not if they could—resort to the electioneering artifices employed by their opponents. No flying sheets, with false addresses, were circulated against Bazalgette, to meet such attacks as that fulminated against Mr. Rawlinson from "No. 6, Charing-cross;" the respectable occupant of which house instantly published a repudiation of the paper. No counter-rumours were propagated by Rawlinson's supporters, to meet the rumours set afloat against Mr. Ward and his friends, by the Great George-street interest. These latter adroitly invoked all the prejudices against the late Board of Health to damage Rawlinson; who, they declared, was a "mere nominee of Chadwick"—a thick-and-thin theorist in pipes—the very father of stoppages and failures—a man who would drain a mansion with a quill, and all London through a few 12-inch tubes. As for Mr. Ward, he was an anonymous slanderer—a persecutor—the hidden prompter of Chadwick—the secret soul of the late Board of Health—an adventurer—a charlatan—a hiring scribe, fighting, not for the public weal, but to gratify his own personal spite against that great and good man, Bazalgette.

Mr. Rawlinson, for all reply, sent round a circular showing how the drainage of Carlisle had been estimated by the late Mr. Stephenson at £75,000; how he, Rawlinson, had estimated it at only £23,000; how the works had just been completed for £22,500; and how analogous economies might probably be effected on the Great George-street estimates for the main drainage of the metropolis.

It was of no avail. Great George-street and the

"giants" were in the ascendant. Three days before the election Bazalgette was a score of votes ahead.

At this crisis, an intimation was received by Mr. Rawlinson's friends that Mr. Bazalgette's printed letter of application was a tissue of misrepresentations. It was pointed out, for example, that he claimed in this document to have "acted as Resident Engineer on the Tame Valley Canal, and there constructed a great number of locks, bridges, and heavy earthworks;" also to have been "engaged in extensive works in Portsmouth dockyard;" furthermore to have been for twenty years in active practice, "after" completing his professional education; and, lastly, to have been appointed on the engineering staff of the Commission of Sewers in 1848—a date alleged to be false.

An investigation was undertaken forthwith. Inquiry was made at Birmingham and Portsmouth; dates were computed; the records of the Commission of Sewers were examined. From Birmingham a letter was sent by the secretary of the Canal Company, certifying that Mr. Bazalgette was not, as he stated, resident engineer on the Tame Valley Canal; and, therefore, did not construct the locks, bridges, and embankments on that work. From Portsmouth a telegraphic message was received to the effect that Mr. Bazalgette's only engagement there had been as a draughtsman on probation at 5s. per diem; in confirmation whereof his own letter of resignation, specifically describing his post as that of "draughtsman in the civil architects' department," was sent up by post next day. As for Mr. Bazalgette's professional education, it was ascertained to have been begun at the date when, according to his circular, it ended; so that his twenty years' practice was inclusive, not exclusive, as he had alleged, of his pupilage. Finally, it appeared that he had (inadvertently, of course), antedated his appointment on the Commission of Sewers, so as to give himself a factitious priority over district engineers really his seniors in office.

The first two of these misrepresentations were set forth by Mr. Ward in a letter which, with the documents in proof, he forwarded to Mr. Nicholay on the day of election, with liberty to lay the case before his colleagues.

Mr. Nicholay opened the case; but, when he had got half way through it, he lost his presence of mind, and sat down, fairly overwhelmed by the clamour of the Bazalgette party. He read Mr. Ward's letter, but the documentary evidence he, by a singular oversight, kept back. Thus, Mr. Bazalgette, when called on for his defence, was enabled to treat Mr. Ward's statements as simple assertions, and to meet them by a simple denial.

When Mr. Bazalgette sat down, not one of Mr. Rawlinson's supporters rose to reply to him. They appear to have been seized with a sort of moral paralysis. Not one of them thought of adverting to the documents—which lay all the while on the table, irrefragable proofs of culpability, but as utterly unheeded as if they had not been in existence. The case having thus, to use the slang of the bar, "fallen through," Mr. Bazalgette was elected by a triumphant majority; and Mr. Ward's name was duly hooted by Mr. Bazalgette's supporters.

For three days public opinion, misled by this break-down of the case in Mr. Nicholay's hands, was strongly in favour of Bazalgette, and as strongly against Ward.

On Wednesday last, however, Mr. Ward published the whole series of documents at length, in the *Times*; connecting them with a few brief remarks; and setting forth, in a crushing summary, their bearing on Bazalgette's circular, and the irrefragable proof they afforded of trick and misrepresentation.

The effect on the town was instantaneous. The London ratpayers felt that a lucrative post, of great trust, had been won by a trick at their expense; and the public at large felt that Mr. Ward, for doing his duty, had been unjustly maligned.

So the matter stands at present. What the upshot will be, whether a protest against the election by the minority, indignant at the deception put upon the Board; or, on the other hand, a vote of confidence by the majority, anxious to screen their officer from further attack; or, thirdly, a Committee of Inquiry, to talk over the unpleasantness, and shelve it; or, lastly, and not the least probable, a *sub silentio* acceptance of the wrong, as something bygone and incurable; which of all these, and divers other possible courses, the new Parish

Parliament will think fit to adopt, we have no means of judging.

If, indeed, individual and corporate morality in the least degree resembled each other, we should entertain no doubt of the result. For half the amount of misrepresentation which blots Mr. Bazalgette's circular, a banker's clerk would be turned out of doors. If a candidate for an upper footman'ship set forth on inquiry that he had filled that post in a nobleman's family, but proved to have been only button-boy for four months, on probation, at five shillings a-week, his services would probably be declined, or his appointment, if made, would be forthwith cancelled. But the ways of forty-four men are not as the ways of one; and though each would condemn the delinquent button-boy, it does not follow that all will condemn the deceptive draughtsman. For there is something quick and keen in individual perceptions of honour—but something blunt and dull in a Board's collective conscience.

POSTSCRIPT, FRIDAY EVENING.—The Board has met to-day, and called on Mr. Bazalgette, by a vote of 17 to 16, to explain his conflicting statements respecting the Tame Valley Canal; of which, in his circular of the 15th, he named himself alone as "Resident Engineer," and "constructor." Thus pressed, Mr. Bazalgette has confessed that he was but one of three subordinates under the Resident Engineer, himself and Mr. Tempelay being employed as superintendents, while a Mr. Drysdale was engaged in preparing the plans and designs. Was this ignominious avowal of the deception previously palmed on the Board received with a burst of indignation? Not at all. Individual consciences probably winced; but the collective conscience received the confession in silence; and "the subject dropped." Such is Corporate morality. Will it awaken to a clearer sense of right and wrong? or have we now the final dénouement of this "tale of a trick?"

Open Council.

[IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS ALL OPINION, HOWEVER EXTREME, ARE ALLOWED AN EXPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.]

There is no learned man but will confess he hath much profited by reading controversies, his senses awakened, and his judgment sharpened. If, then, it be profitable for him to read, why should it not, at least, be tolerable for his adversary to write?—MILTON.

THE MISCONDUCT OF THE WAR.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—The estimate which you seem to place upon Colonel Hamley's work on the war in the Crimea is, generally, not shared by many able and distinguished officers in the army, who consider Woods' "Past Campaign" a very superior and trustworthy narrative of the events in 1854-55.

It is singular that many persons, including the gallant officer, trace the mishaps of this war to the parsimony of the Parliament (country), in reducing all our warlike establishments during a long peace; yet there is not one solitary military blunder made by the commanders, and they were numerous, which, by any possibility, can be traced to those reductions. Is there any one so credulous as to believe that if we had kept up an army of 500,000 men during the long peace, Lord Lucan, and many others, would have done better in the Crimea? No! these officers were selected by favouritism, not merit, and the usual consequences of such selections followed. The starvation of the troops, and the want of adequate transport by sea and land, were, no doubt, entirely owing to the gross neglect and ignorance of the two war ministers in England; but these do not excuse, or even account for, the absence of skill and energy, and the many instances of inexcusable timidity on the part of the commanders, which caused so much loss of life, and have so much reduced the prestige of the English army. The flank march may have been, as many assert, highly creditable to the genius of the officers who suggested it, but nothing could have been more discreditable to any disciplined force than the manner in which that operation was performed. If the Russian General had sent a daring officer (such as Franchesci was in the Peninsula) with a very few riflemen and horse to attack the advanced guard of the Allies, at the same time setting fire to the thick underwoods which skirted, and often covered, the line of march, numbers must have perished, and the Allied force probably been compelled to retire again to the Alma, with the loss of much of their artillery and baggage, and covered with ridicule and disgrace. The Russians assert, however, that they expected the Allied army would advance on Simpheropol, and this may probably account for the supineness on their part in losing the opportunity of attacking the Allies. No secrets can hereafter, as you suppose, account for the neglects and blunders in this war; they were pure mistakes of ignorant men.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A SOLDIER.

28th January.

Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

"WHO wrote SHAKESPEARE?" asks LADY BETTY in *High Life Below Stairs*; and the answer "COLLEY CIBBER," which produces a shout of laughter, is far less ludicrous than the answer which an American writer in *Putnam's Monthly* hints in an elaborated, but not elaborate, paper, which is to be followed by more circumstantial proof. Many a playful suggestion has been made touching the mythical nature of SHAKESPEARE's fame; but it was reserved for American absurdity to give his works to RALEIGH and BACON. The writer in *Putnam's Monthly* has not even ingenuity to render his paradox palatable. He is deficient in the elementary qualifications necessary for such an inquiry, being incapable of appreciating evidence, superficially informed, and infected with the worst disease which can beset a writer, the delusion that bombast is forcible. In the introductory paper his main position rests on the assumption that SHAKESPEARE was only a miserable player, a deer-stealing apprentice turned into a money-getting manager, and utterly incapable of being the author of the plays attributed to him. Is there any evidence for such an assumption? Not a tittle. And if the writer had but inquired he would have learned that the only dramatist worthy to be placed on the same exalted pedestal as SHAKESPEARE, was also an actor, also a money-getting manager, writing and acting for money, and yet acknowledged by all Europe as the immortal author of *Tartufe*, *Le Misanthrope*, and *L'Avare*.

But not only is the assumption foolish in itself, it has to make head against the plainest evidence. SHAKESPEARE was well-known to his rivals and friends. He was cordially hated by some whom he surpassed; and if those who taunted him with conceiving himself "to be the only *Shakescene* of the country," had known he was incapable of writing the plays which galled their envy, their taunts would have been bitterer, and their uproar great. BEN JONSON would not have been imposed on by a vulgar actor, and believed him to be the "star of poets;" or said of him,—

Look how the father's face
Lives in his issue; even so the race
Of Shakspeare's mind and manners brightly shines
In his well-torned and true-fil'd lines:

which is more to our argument than his noble line of eulogy:—

Thou art a monument without a tomb!

Nor does the American argument fail more completely in the attempt to disprove SHAKESPEARE's authorship than in the utter want of critical discrimination displayed in its affiliation of the plays on RALEIGH and BACON. Of these writers we have ample specimens. We know what they could do when all their genius was at the stretch; we have the avowed fruits of their labour and meditation; and if any single page of RALEIGH or BACON can be pointed out which indicates, even vaguely, the peculiar constitution of a dramatic mind, we will believe that ROBERT MONTGOMERY wrote the "*Ancient Mariner*," that MACAULAY wrote "*Pickwick*," and that EDGAR POE is the author of "*Bracebridge Hall*."

Readers of *Fraser* this month need not be told to pause, and taste with slow relish, the opening article, "Friends in Council Abroad," the best, perhaps, of the series; grave and suggestive in matter, in manner playful, humorous, and eloquent; many are the topics which rise up in these desultory conversations in the easy natural way of friendly talk, and many the quotable passages; but we shall select only one, because we want to cite it, and we cannot afford room for more:—

ELLESMERE.

The imperishable, inexhaustible, unapproachable nature of love is shown in this—that all the millions of stupid love stories that have been written have not one whit abated the immortal interest that there is in the rudest and stupidest love story. All the rest of the wretched thing may be the most dismal twaddle, but you can't help feeling a little interest, when you have once taken up the book, as to whether Arabella will ultimately relent in favour of Augustus; and whether that wicked creature, man or woman, who is keeping them apart, will not soon be disposed of, somehow.

And yet, having had some experience in law—in divorce cases, for instance—I have all the time shrewd suspicions that Augustus and Arabella may not hit it off so very successfully when there is no wicked creature to prevent their being "happy ever afterwards." Still, while I am reading the novel, how I hate the wicked mischief-maker!

In earnest—is it not grand to see the indestructible nature of love? Write so foolishly about anything else, and see what will happen. Try it upon theology, and see if twilight does not soon deepen into absolute darkness. Have I not beaten all the troubadours in Provence? [While he had been speaking, Blanche had quietly got up and come behind him. She had taken off her own head-dress of ivory, and now suddenly put it upon his head.]

DUNSFORD.

And see, you are crowned by the fair fingers of beauty! We will carry you back in triumph to the *Grand Monarque*.

ELLESMERE.

I deserve to be: I have uttered a great dictum about love. Now, when you, Milverton, have anything to say about the government of men and the conduct of affairs, see how careful you are obliged to be. You have to think long and earnestly about it, and then you have to watch patiently, perhaps for years, before you can get a good opportunity of saying it. You have to set it with care and

dexterity, to introduce it with the proper garniture, and even then to be perfectly satisfied if a few only of your readers find it not very dull. But it is far otherwise, as I have just shown you, with the loves of Augustus and Arabella. They may be told at any time and in any place, and the narrator may be half asleep like an Arab story-teller, who is telling for the thousandth time some common legend about Leila and Mahommed. He may be drowsy enough over the hot embers and the good cheer provided by his swarthy hosts, but they sit round in eager listening attitudes, with their dark eyes greedily fixed upon him, inquiring for more, so that he has not the cruelty to go to sleep when so many human beings are passionately drinking in the well-worn words which only add to his drowsiness.

BLANCHE.

I should like to hear what Cousin Leonard would say of love. It is not likely that so grave a man has thought much about so foolish a thing. But his big books tell him everything, I think. I often fancy I hear them talking together in the night.

MILVERTON.

Why, beauty, I think that love is the only thing that shows us the possibilities in human nature. I believe it was given us for the same purpose that the sight of the infinite involutions of starry worlds was given. Knowing what one human being can feel for another, when in love, seeing the inventive and undying tolerance which love gives, one can imagine what it would be if some feeling of the same kind were to pervade the whole race, and men exercised the best of their powers in discerning and developing what was lovely in all those about them. It would create a universe of loveliness.

An elaborate review of MACAULAY, while doing full justice to his excellences, points out some historical mis-statements and exaggerations; an equally elaborate review of "BAIN'S Senses and the Intellect," will be very acceptable to a certain small class of readers.

Blackwood has an extraordinary rhapsody, entitled "Our Wondrous Mother-age," which, in another periodical might be enjoyed as a satirical exhibition of the folly talked about the present age, but which seems to be a serious tirade against utilitarianism, railways, statistics, and a "mechanical" soulless generation. It is worth glancing at, to see how far nonsense can go without suspicion of the laughter following its footsteps. A capital paper on the "Drama" will serve to make the reader forget this outrage on his reason; and an amusing account of dogs and dog-stealers, entitled "Tickler among the Thieves," also "repays perusal." Is this anecdote of the dog's compassion a fiction? It might be true—

I am sure Tickler is not without feeling; for one day he was sitting on a chair, with his paws resting on the top of it, near the window, in a warm dining-room, on a blighting day in February—the dust-laden wind without seeming to cut both man and beast to the very bone; and at the foot of our steps there had presumed to sit a dirty, half-starved cur, shivering miserably in every muscle but uttering no sound—neither whine nor bark.

"He starved, and made no sign!"

Was it necessary for that lout of a fellow that passed to kick the unoffending brute (which did not belong to him) from our steps, it showing, however, no resentment, but simply sitting and shivering a foot or two farther on? Then Tickler (who is of patrician descent), whose eyes had been for some time fixed wistfully upon his plebeian brother, could hold his peace no longer, but gave a loud, fierce, little bark, jumped down from his chair, and fawned whiningly on me; and when I took two nice chicken-bones from his plate under the sofa, and called the forlorn victim of man's chance brutality into the hall, and gave him the bones, which he was for a while too cold, and also timid, to eat for fear of another kick—Tickler stood by, not only without growl or bark, though he knew the victuals were his, but very complacently wagging his tail. He had pity for his poor brother, who seemed such a wretched little outcast!

In the *Revue des Deux Mondes* we have the story of JEANNE D'ARC once more narrated, and apparently for the sake of the conclusion to which M. LOUIS DE CARNE is "irresistibly" led, namely, that only two explanations are possible for "*tout homme de sens*,"—1st, That the Maid of Orleans was sent by God to save France, as the *bergère* of Nanterre had been ten centuries before; or, 2nd, That she possessed the faculty of second sight and magnetic clairvoyance;—"Ou elle a précédé Mesmer et Cagliostro, ou elle procède de JESUS CHRIST." What say our readers?

THE LADY IN WAITING IN "THE STATES."

Letters from the United States, Cuba, and Canada. By the Honourable Amelia M. Murray.

J. W. Parker and Son.

THE Honourable Amelia M. Murray has solved rather an amusing question for the curious world. We have had the United States traversed by representatives from almost every class of English society. Diplomats, statesmen, soldiers, sailors, lawyers, authors, statisticians, political economists, journalists, clergymen, gentlemen of fortune, sportsmen, naturalists, merchants, workingmen, and women; but it remained an experiment to be performed, to turn loose a lady from Court-life to wander about the Union, and tell us what she saw. A Lady in waiting turned out in that broad Republic where nobody waits upon anybody,—a lady of St. James's let loose among the hotels and the cars from the north, "down south," among whites and blacks, democrats and nullifiers, barn-burners and Know-nothings. It is in this mode that we must take Miss Murray's book. You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, nor bacon out of a silk purse. The woman of fashion, however intelligent she may be, however gifted with the power of writing, or blue towards her shoes, is not a statesman, a professional man, or a man of any kind. We must not look for "information," in the ordinary sense of the word, nor for statistics; others can collect them and arrange them better, for exact reports upon the working of institutions, for precise judgments upon the questions of cotton, railways, New York bankruptcies, or land speculations. But a woman's eye sees many things that escape the severer inspector's; and really it is both a rarity and an instruction to view the Great Western Republic through the lens of a Lady-in-waiting. Instead, therefore, of wasting much harsh criticism, which would be totally inapplicable to these two light volumes, let us say that they would be little worth reading by those who should read no other books for an account of the Union; but for those who

will read the other nineteen in a score of different works, they would be a desirable complement.

It is not that the work is "well written," although the writer is a clever woman; nor that it is entirely unalloyed by a certain set mannerism, which certainly does not belong to woman's writing in general. Miss Murray is too conscious that she writes, as it were, "in company,"—the company consisting of the hospitable Republic on the one hand, and of the critical republic of letters in England. She is anxious to be thought well of—an excellent quality in woman, but one that does not take the best means of success when womanhood endeavours to eke out its attractions and adorn its costume with flowers from the technicology of botany instead of the flowers of the field or of the milliner; with glances of geology not so deep as Lyell, and dashes at astronomy which is not peculiar to America, for they have not a different moon in the Union, nor does the diversity of institutions exercise a perceptible influence on Charles's wain. If lively Miss Murray were really to sit down and write us accounts of the scenery which she praises, and which is tantalisingly glanced at in her rapid pages, she might perhaps paint us very pretty aquatint sketches. But the names of trees are not trees, and the facts which she records in natural history are not brought out with sufficient distinctness, nor always marked by discrimination. When we are told that she sees "a capsicum as small as a pea," or a privet "like a Chinese privet;" that the dwarf black jack is abundant, or *phlox Drummondii* thick in certain sandy prairies of Texas, we have scanty materials either for the artist or the botanist. The two "Horned Frogs" which she caught and petted, and which she calls "crustaceans," and therefore, not disgusting, are neither new to natural history, nor are we much enlightened by such descriptions; and we demur to accepting the driest statements from a writer who believes that certain snakes milk cows. But this is the consequence of turning out a diary un-revised and unpruned, with, perhaps, an overwhelming sense that anything which was said was worth preserving. Unprofessional writers often make the mistake of supposing that because they have a vivid idea of the things seen when they read the words in their own manuscript, those words must convey the same vivid idea to their readers.

The thing we look to, however, is not information about anything whatever, but the special view through the special lens. We know all about hotel life in America; but what will a Court lady think upon it?—that is the question. And when the Lady in waiting is applied to this use, the response which she makes to us is not quite what we should expect. She does not like hotel life in the Union, and that does not surprise us; but what are the objections suggested by a St. James's experience of life? They are mainly that the hotel customs are "ruinous to the manners and domestic character of the young women," and also ruinous to the purses of travellers. Miss Murray paid on an average £10 a-week for self and maid, although they dined at the public table; and the woman of fashion from the golden circle of English society discovers that the canny and keen Robert Chambers is quite mistaken when he says that there is no imposition in American inns. Now, if we had sought for a keen eye to business and an appreciation of cash outgoings, we should have supposed either of the Messrs. Chambers fairly to represent, not a "near," but certainly an exact class; yet the daughter of St. James's hath a shrewder eye than the Edinburgh tradesman. So inherent is the housewife in the sex; so completely does the domestic Englishwoman over-ride the lady of fashion! She finds an excuse for the hotel life in the difficulty of keeping servants. Its *modus operandi* destroys the character of young women, "in the frivolity and indulgence" which it encourages, "by superseding domestic occupations." The daughter of St. James's opines that women should be the "educated companions, not the rivals, of men"—"the heart console, the binders up of broken spirits, the 'sisters of the sisterless,' the presiding genius of the social circle. Is not this work enough for them to do?" Therefore she objects to the woman's rights agitation; objects equally to women being "all queens" or "playthings—dolls." The daughter of St. James's detects the extravagance and artificiality of the American toilet. "I see here false brows, false bloom, false hair, false everything—not always, but too frequently;" and Belgravia blushes for the sex!

Still, there is something pleasant in the hotel life. It is, at all events, convenient for travellers: society is completely brought forth, and presented for inspection. Take an instance from a Washington inn:—

I find acquaintances from Cuba, California, all the Southern States; from each of the Northern—even some from Canada; naval men, who have visited Japan; politicians, judges, bishops, botanists, geologists, educationalists, philanthropists, abolitionists, slave-holders, voyagers of discovery men, and men who have been some of all these things at various periods of their lives, with a large number of ladies, all willing to converse, and vying in kindness and hospitality towards me, the only foreigner and stranger among them.

It is something, also, to get the daughter of St. James's as a witness on the subject of slavery. Miss Murray is so impartial that she becomes a partisan. She has lived so completely under the influence of anti-slavery doctrines in the highest quarters at home, that, finding the slave-holders human beings, with hearts in their bosoms, and not demons, there is a strong reaction. She disclaims indeed anything like an opinion, and does not express one; but her picture is an opinion. She contrasts the anxious faces, the general absence of content, the prevalence of insanity in the North, with the content in the South, the happy condition of the slaves, and the encouragement of religion amongst them. Slavery she accepts as a preparatory state of existence—a sort of purgatory on earth, during which the abject races of Africa acquire a more rectangular facial outline, a thinner lip, knowledge of religion, and, by a compulsory apprenticeship, a certain power of self-government. In the South the race is happy, even in its preparatory state of existence. There is mostly the *pot au feu* in the cottage, and often all the chickens and comfort of an English farm-house. In fact, it is apparent that "slavery is, in most cases, real freedom:—"

The Creator of men formed them for labour under guidance, and there is probably a providential intention of producing some good Christian men and women out of it in time. We have been blindly endeavouring to counteract this intention; we have thought ourselves wiser than our forefathers in all points, because we have advanced beyond them in others; and it has been the habit for us in England to believe ourselves more religious, and virtuous, and benevolent than

these slaveholders; whereas, I fear there is a greater amount of irreligion and vice in one town of ours, or of the Northern States here, than in all the Southern States put together. When I watch the kindness, the patience, the consideration shown by white gentlemen and gentlewomen towards these "darkies," I could say to some anti-slavery people I have known, "Go thou, and do likewise."

They are better off than the working classes in this country. A slave girl was astonished when Miss Murray told her that the English working people could seldom get meat at all, still less three times a-day. The negro will remonstrate when it is proposed to free him:—

Mrs. Stowe gives great credit to a young lady who, becoming the heiress of a few slaves, gave them all their freedom. I have heard of a young lady who succeeded to the possession of negroes, and nothing else; by emancipating them she might have gained a fine character from the Abolitionists, and have cast off not only a responsibility, but a heavy expense; instead of which she sought occupation for herself, laboured hard, and earned the means of existence for her poor black dependants, as well as her own living. Which of these two ladies acted the more Christian part?

They despise the free negro:—

One woman was offered her freedom in my hearing: she took the offer as an insult, and said, "I know what the free niggers are, missus: they are the meanest niggers as ever was; I hopes never to be a free nigger, missus." A slave quarrelling with another black, after calling him names, at last sums up as the acme of contempt, "You be a d—d nigger without a master!" This is the consequence of the fact, that free negroes being idle and profligate are generally poor and miserable. A common reproach among them is to say, "You be'es as bad as a free nigger."

Miss Murray goes to Cuba, but does not equal Mr. Hurlbut in the vigour or distinctness of her painting, whether of scenery or society. Slavery she opines cannot be studied in Cuba, the question being complicated with social backwardness and indifferent government. And the daughter of St. James's is strong in the conviction that a better course than the blockading squadron would be to encourage peaceful commerce with the African coasts; "commercial remedies being the only certain legitimate slavery preventives."

These conclusions have led to an accident in the life of the authoress; and the story has been partly told in the papers. We are not in a position to correct the narrative. According to the tale, Miss Murray asked permission to dedicate her book to the Queen; but on finding the discussion of slavery in it, her Majesty not only declined, but felt it necessary to dismiss from the service of the Court a person who had publicly discussed "a question which threatened to rend the Union." There may be sound policy and good international law in that rigid enforcement of neutrality; but it strikes us that the "question which threatens to rend the Union" has before been discussed—that a certain Mrs. Beecher Stowe was over in this country, and that a special reception was prepared for her by no less a personage than the Duchess of Sutherland, Mistress of the Robes. This was "discussing," with a vengeance, a question that threatened to rend the Union; but was any manifestation of Court displeasure made at that Court demonstration in favour of the Abolitionist party? According to the story the neutrality of the Court is all on one side.

DE LA RIVE ON ELECTRICITY.

A Treatise on Electricity. By Augustus de la Rive. Translated by C. V. Walker. Vol. II. Longmans.

The science of Electricity is little more than a century old. In 1750 the Leyden jar was indeed known, but the identity of electricity and lightning was still unsuspected. Little more was known than what the ancients knew respecting the properties possessed by certain bodies of exercising an attraction for others after being rubbed; and this little consisted in the fact that some substances were conductors and others non-conductors; that there were two electrical principles or "fluids" which attracted and repelled each other; and that the union of the two opposing fluids produced a spark.

In 1856 we look back upon this slender budget with some surprise, perhaps compassion, in thinking of the varied applications which our more extended knowledge has enabled us to make of an agent met with in every corner of the organic and inorganic world; and we are only brought to a proper state of modesty by reflecting how small our actual knowledge is, compared with the manifold and complex problems which solicit attention and demand solution. We have not even settled what Electricity is; and this uncertainty, coupled with the marvellous agencies of which daily experience renders us cognisant, causes rash theorists and facile philosophers to attribute everything they do not understand to the agency of Electricity. Are tables turned by means not obvious? The explanation is Electricity. No one pausing to ask whether the known effects of Electricity are in the least analogous to table turning; no one trying to turn a table by the application of a gigantic battery. Does an epidemic ravage countries? It is owing to an "electrical state of the atmosphere." Is a man found burned to death, no fire to burn him being discoverable? It is Electricity which has decomposed the water of his body into oxygen and hydrogen, a condition brought about by excessive use of alcohol, and "spontaneous combustion" results. Are the wonders of nervous action contemplated? the brain is a galvanic battery; thought is Electricity. Look where we will we are sure to see Electricity made the great *Fetish* of ignorance—the Deity whose presence is the cause of all marvels.

One would imagine that an agent so constantly invoked would be carefully studied. So indeed it is, but not much by the facile theorists to whom we allude. Electrical science is too important and too fascinating not to have many adepts. Treatises, popular and professional, abound; many bad, some few good, half a dozen excellent. The very best, all things considered, will probably be acknowledged to have come from the Geneve Professor, M. de la Rive, whose second volume has just appeared. Mr. Walker has admirably translated this work, which is profusely illustrated with diagrams, and which, when the third volume appears, will present a complete and detailed exposition of all that is known of Electricity, executed by a master. In giving this work our most serious recommendation we must at the same time indicate its character as a *Treatise*: it is not a rapid summary of principles, but an elaborate exposition of principles, experiments, facts, and theories, written from the fulness of knowledge, and with a desire of completeness which

renders it more like an Encyclopædia than a handbook. M. de la Rive is no compiler at second hand. He is eminent as an experimentalist and discoverer; almost unrivalled as an expositor, and thoroughly informed of all that European laborers have been doing in this field. The size of his work is, therefore, considerable, but it should be reckoned as a merit, for the space thus occupied is not swelled with idle learning, or idler rhetoric—it is compact with solid material. The book could only have been smaller by being something quite different in form and purpose. It is emphatically a *treatise*, containing both the theoretical and practical aspects of the science; and is so clearly written that even the tyro may make it his introduction to the subject, while the most accomplished electrician will find it an invaluable summary.

The most interesting sections of the present volume are, perhaps, those devoted to the sources of electricity. The ancients were vaguely conversant with the influence which heat exercised on the production of electrical phenomena. Pliny—that repository of the knowledge and ignorance of his time—mentions the hard violet, or deep red stone, which, when heated in the sun, or rubbed, attracts small light bodies. At the end of the seventeenth century some Dutch merchants brought from Ceylon a peculiar stone, which was called *tourmaline*, or *ash-attractor*, because, when placed upon heated ashes, it attracted them and then immediately repelled them, although with cold ashes no such effects were visible. This stone we now know as the mineral *tourmaline*. In 1757 *Äpinus*, having two polished *tourmalines* set in a ring, instituted a series of experiments, and thereby established the first laws of the development of electricity by heat. He proved the presence of free electricity in the heated *tourmaline*, by the attraction and repulsion it successively exercised upon light bodies. He even drew a spark from it, which was visible in the dark. But the most important observation he made was of the simultaneous presence of two electricities in the same *tourmaline*, one being confined in one part, the other in another, these two constituting the electric poles. He further conceived that those electric poles, in the *unequally* heated *tourmaline*, are *contrary* to what they are in the equally heated *tourmaline*. Canton cleared up the contradictions by proving that it is not the absolute temperature, but the *change* of temperature, which renders the *tourmaline* electric; the electricity of each pole varies according as the change is a heating or a cooling. Bergmann completed this view by showing that when the *tourmaline* is placed in a medium of its own temperature, whatever that may be, it is never electrical; transported into a colder medium, it immediately acquires the two electric poles, which state ceases as soon as the *tourmaline*, having abandoned its superior heat, is of the same temperature as the medium. This important law is not only true for the crystal as a whole, but equally so for each of its molecules separately, so that if the two poles are arranged so that one is heated while the other is cooled, they have the same electricity at the same time.

This rapid sketch of the history of one law, will indicate the nature of the progress which science has made in all the other questions of this extremely difficult subject. We must be content with such brief indication, and send the reader to M. de la Rive's masterly treatise for the fullest exposition of all that in 1856 is known about Electricity.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY OF JERSEY.

A Constitutional History of Jersey. By Charles Le Quesne. Longman and Co. JERSEY has an area of nearly forty-five square miles, and contains fifty-seven thousand inhabitants. But it prides itself, neither upon its extent, nor upon its population, but upon the antiquity of its laws. Jersey, indeed, is a little Japan in the British Channel—with legendary privileges, which, bad or good, it values, because covered with the rust and dust of time. The old Norman institutions still flourish in that self-loving little island; few, even of the Norman laws, have there been abolished. The Jersey Jury of Appeal is still composed of twenty-four men; in the Legislature there are still twelve jurats, who sit for life, twelve doctors of parishes, *ex officio*, and twelve constables or representatives. The Courts are independent of those at Westminster. In actions relating to real property, the *Clameur de Haro* is to this day heard.

The *Clameur de Haro* is an antique and peculiar institution such as we might expect to see illustrated on middle-age tapestry, or in a pre-Raphaelite painting. The "Royal Court" has the highest jurisdiction in Jersey. When, before any other tribunal, a decision is pronounced, the person that believes himself aggrieved may fall on his knees, in the presence of witnesses, and invoke the name of Rollo. He cries, "Haro, Haro, Haro, a l'aide, mon Prince, on me fait toit." Haro is a corruption of Rollo, or "Ah Rou," the name by which the famous Duke was actually called. As soon as these words are pronounced, every workman within hearing must cease from his employment; the Court must be adjourned; no cause then in suspense can be decided, until the royal judges or the Sovereign in Council has disposed of the appeal. If, however, the individual who thus takes advantage of the last resource of law, has abused the privilege, he is fined, loses his case, and pays all the costs.

Another peculiarity in the legal procedure of Jersey, is the form of taking an oath. It is strictly Norman, and dispenses with the Testament and every other book. The witness merely holds up his hand, and declares that, as he shall answer before Almighty God, he speaks the truth. Hence, men of all creeds can be sworn with equal facility, before the Jersey tribunals.

Mr. Le Quesne's narrative is prolix, and often dull; but, from its large presentation of original documents and authorities, is historically interesting. The writer, as one of the Jurats of the Royal Court, and a Member of the States, has studied his subject practically. He has obviously, also, carried on his researches with an acute eye and a zealous hand. Standing apart from those who would abolish all local codes, he nevertheless concedes much to the advocates of Channel Island Reform. But he has a dry, colourless style; he has no faculty for creating out of the best materials a clear or rapid story; he is a mere annalist, or, something less,—a commentator, exact, and discerning, but neither an essayist nor an historian.

It was to be expected that a Member of the States, a Jurat for life, should eulogise the institutions of Jersey. Accordingly, Mr. Le Quesne discovers many rare qualities in the laws of that Normanised islet. He praises

especially the customs that regulate the accession to property, because they "have strongly operated in preserving it in the same family." The elder son, on the death of his father, has the house and a certain portion of the land, and annually purchases from his brothers and sisters their respective shares. There is real equity in this, for the younger brothers and sisters have shares, which they sell, or keep, at their option. Mr. Le Quesne, however, chiefly lauds the Conservatism of the population, though, as we have said, he does not share the bigotry of some of the islanders, who think that because a law is local it ought to be everlasting. Thus, in Jersey, any individual may go before the Court, and, without producing evidence, declare his neighbour in a state of bankruptcy. Describing the functions of the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. Le Quesne writes:—

Authority is by law given to the lieutenant-governor over strangers coming to Jersey; but the law has in a great measure become a dead letter, as it is opposed to the liberal spirit of the age. By the code of laws of 1771, it is enacted that strangers shall not be allowed to dwell in the island, nor to marry women of Jersey, without the permission of the governor; and a disobedience of this enactment was to be followed by expulsion from the island; but strangers of good moral character, being Protestants, were to be received with encouragement, although even these were to give security, if thought necessary.

The right of ordering foreigners out of the island is still possessed, and is sometimes, though rarely, exercised by the lieutenant-governor. It is a great power to entrust to any man; and it should be exercised only in extreme cases, and with great discretion and judgment.

The small extent of the island, and its contiguity to France, are the political reasons why foreigners are not allowed to possess landed property in Jersey, and why they have been subjected, particularly in former days, to the rigid superintendence of the governors. In time of war, on a frontier point, the commander-in-chief must possess powers for protection and self-preservation, which in time of peace and amity must be dormant; but it would not be wise, from the small size of the island, to repeal the law whereby foreigners are forbidden to hold any real property in the island.

The islanders, as a body, regard with extreme jealousy any legal innovation introduced by the Imperial Government. But, says Mr. Le Quesne, a change is taking place in the public mind of Jersey. It is generally acknowledged that innovations are necessary to destroy the monopoly of the legal profession. Against old customs, which are harmless, few objections lie. They are often picturesque, and, as civilisation undertakes to destroy the picturesque, their quaint outlines and heraldic colours may be usefully preserved. Thus the compulsory attendance of the feudal barons, once a year, at the Assize de la Cour d'Héritage, almost null as it is in effect, illustrates in the eyes of our generation the manners of our Norman ancestors, and is valuable as a relic. But the essential maxims of legality, in our opinion, should be assimilated throughout the Empire; because there is no reason, in morals or policy, why arbitrary power should be hateful in England and tolerable in Jersey. Mr. Le Quesne admits that the Lieutenant-Governor exercises a prerogative inconsonant with the spirit of the age; and the result, logically, must be, that this functionary should cease to possess any authority beyond that of the executive hand which puts into operation the undoubted principles of the law. To trust the Governor of Jersey with powers undefined by statute, is as absurd as it would be to invest the Lord Mayor of London with the privileges of a censor.

The Constitution of Jersey, in fact, is a political curiosity. The island, though it has no native literature, is like a carved cabinet crammed with antique law—not of French origin only, but of German, for the centeniers and the dizainers still exist, and the Constable presides in parish meetings, as under the elective Counts of Germany. At the Assembly of the Assize d'Héritage the vestibule of the Court is lined by men bearing, not bayonets, but halberds, with Charles the Second's mace carried before them—quite a modern contrast. Then, the Governor who "owes compareure" for "the bishops, abbots, and abbesses," answers to his name; the Seigneurs appear and respond, the *Prevôt* reads his statement of cases, and when they have been tried, the dignified body dines by the invitation of "the Crown." This high Court has another useful function—that of inspecting the public roads four times annually.

The constable is called upon to produce a jury of twelve good and impartial men, chosen from among his parishioners. The jury take an oath to lead the Court through the worst roads in the parish. These men are called *les Voyeurs*, because, on the march, they see or discover the nuisances which may exist, the encroachments which may have been made, and the trees which, interfering with the free use of the road, should be removed. Formerly the procession was on horseback; now it is otherwise. The *voyeurs*, with the constable, take the lead; then follow the vicomte, with a staff, the bailiff and the jurats, accompanied by the attorney-general and the greffier. Whenever the *voyeurs* discover any nuisance or impediment in the road, or an unfortunate tree which has been guilty of an encroachment, they make a verbal report of the same to the Court, who immediately order the removal of the nuisance or the downfall of the tree. As all proprietors of land bordering on the public roads are bound to keep their hedges properly trimmed, and also to have the trees pruned in such a manner as not to overhang the road below a certain height, it is a rule that if the official staff of the vicomte, as he paces along the road, is arrested by an overhanging branch, a report is made to the Court, who, ascertaining that the report is correct, impose a fine on the owner of the land.

Mr. Le Quesne's work abounds in similarly curious details. It has been compiled with diligence and integrity, and though written in a dry, juridical style, will be an acquisition to historical antiquarians.

LATTER-DAY POETRY.

The Mystic; and other Poems. By Philip James Bailey, author of "Festus." Chapman and Hall.
Man in Paradise; a Poem in Six Books: with Lyrical Poems. By John Edmund Reade. Longman and Co.

It is with sincere regret that we find ourselves called upon to notice these two volumes of poems. Both authors are men of faculty; both have written verses which are worth the reading; both have claims to respectful treatment; and both are here to be seen dancing in a kind of mental elevation, and in unseemly fashion.

The two poems before us belong to the order of the ultra-mystical, as indeed, so far as Mr. Bailey is concerned, is declared in the very title. The

literary tendencies of this material, cast-iron, steam-engine age have, strange to say, been in the direction of extreme spiritual sensitiveness; but—though we should be among the last to deny the good that has resulted from a deeper glance into the under-lying mysteries of the universe—we think we see evidences of our modern German mysticism having passed the bounds of all healthy use or reasonable purpose. Our poetry, in particular, is fast sinking into a condition the most morbid—into a sickly, debilitated, whining, raving, melancholy-mad, sentimental, young lady Muse, far inferior to her robust elder sisters. "Abysms," and "stars," and "primal depths," and "chaos voices," and "spherical melodies," together with much shedding of tears, and wailing as of souls in purgatory, are the chief materials of which the poetry of the last fifteen years has been manufactured. Messrs. Bailey and Reade seem desirous of occupying conjointly the very top of this unpleasant Parnassus; and it is difficult to say which most deserves the place. Indeed, the character of their minds is so like, that they might be regarded as Corsican brothers, and that when the one determined on writing his high-flown rhapsodies, the other, informed by some mysterious sympathy, sat down and did likewise—choosing a very similar subject, the same metre (blank verse), the same selection of unwonted words, the same lofty-blown Miltonic style (burlesqued, rather than imitated), and the same lofty contempt of being understood.

Mr. Bailey treats of the sevenfold progresses from perfection to perfection of some divine man, who seems to have been perfect beforehand, and who therefore does not appear to have needed that ordeal of trial and that purification of suffering. Of him we are told that,

Initiate and perfect in mysteries,
He graduated triumphant.

These graduations are described with wearisome repetition, and with a perpetual harping on such phrases as—

Initiate, mystic, perfected, epopt,
Illuminate, adept, transcendent, he
Ivy-like, lived, and died, and again lived,
Resuscitant.

Mr. Bailey's language is indeed of the most astounding kind. To say nothing of his continual and tiring use of compound words (very noble and eloquent modes of expression if sparingly employed), we find no end of "pre-eternal," "conspicuous," "regenerant," "plenipotent," "spectrum," "reboant," "manifestive," "affied," "languescent," "supra-natural," "pre-potent," "endogenous," "orbital aphelion," "genetic," "creanced," "augural rites of volant fowl," "maness" (for woman), &c. The inherent difficulties of so mystical a subject are of course increased by these needlessly peculiar words, and by long and involved sentences, sometimes extending from page to page. The poet, also, takes unwarrantable liberties with words in common use, transmuting nouns into verbs whenever it pleases his sovereign will. Thus we are told that a "continuity of soul" has this effect—that it "ones" the various parts of the universe "with the boundless and divine." Immediately afterwards we read of some

Cloud-breathing dragons homed in heights of air.

And, in another poem in the volume before us, Mr. Bailey records that the branches of the Tree of Life "fruit but in heavenly paradise." To these peculiarities are to be added rhymed verses in the midst of the blank lines (left there probably by accident, but exhibiting great carelessness), and alexandrines, disagreeably breaking the usual measure of five feet.

Such are some of Mr. Bailey's incidental peculiarities. Of the general character of his chief poem we find it difficult to speak, as we honestly confess that it surpasses our comprehension. It has positively left no impression behind it, but that of a misty brightness and a sonorous roar of words. Excepting a few lines scattered here and there, the sum total, we regret to say, is something very much akin to bombast. With the utmost desire to fasten on something which we could really like, we were continually reminded of Bottom's celebrated exemplar of "Ercles' vein—a tyrant's vein":—

The raging rocks,
With shivering shocks,
Shall break the locks
Of prison gates;
And Phibbus' ear
Shall shine from far,
And make and mar
The foolish Fates.

It is painful to suggest this comparison; for, in the worst of Mr. Bailey's extravagances, there is evidence that the aberrations are those of a man of faculty, who has eaten of some "insane root." But the reader shall judge for himself by a few brief passages:—

They whose eyes by spirit-fire are purged
Move ever up the reascent to light,
On a celestial gradient paved with wings.
The myth-insculptured language of the light—

Soul-compulsory power,
The god of psychopompous function—

Ark crystalline, manned by beamy gods,
To drag the deeps of space, and net the stars,
Where, in their nebulous shoals, they shore the void,
And, through old night's Typhonian blindness, shine.
Seductive beldames and adulterous ghouls—

Ere earth,
Like the libation of a crown'd bowl,
O'erspilled the depths of the unknown abyss.

In "A Spiritual Legend"—one of the "other poems" in Mr. Bailey's volume—the imitation of Milton's style is carried to an extent that is positively ridiculous. It is a mere mocking-bird echo, which we are astonished that any man of Mr. Bailey's natural powers should have brought himself to produce. The story is founded on that old Gnostic legend of the essential distinction between God and matter, and of the creation of the world by angels. Were it not for the staring reflex of Milton (and not only of Milton's general manner, but of that magnificent vision in "Paradise

Regained" where Satan shows the kingdoms of the earth to Christ on the Mount), Mr. Bailey's poem would be really fine, allowing for a few drawbacks in the way of wordiness; for there is a dioramic succession of pictures, and a sustained pomp of language. This, for instance, is a very grand old legend, excellently told:—

—Bolotoo, the paradise of gods,
Far off in western space, a land of shades;
Where, to chance wanderer, for the future bound,
And searching for some secret lost to earth,
Tree, temple, tower and grove-clad hills present
But permeable forms; through all he stalks,
As through a builded vision; wall, and bark,
And cliff, close round the path, he passeth through
Unharm'd, as water round a diving gull.

The volume concludes with "A Fairy Tale"—a quaint story very prettily rendered.

Mr. Reade's "Man in Paradise" is so like Mr. Bailey's "Mystic," that the remarks we have just made on the latter might almost be applied to it. There is a little less harping on strange words; but Mr. Reade has his favourite phrases too, and dins "the Infinite," "the Illimitable," "the Ineffable," and "the Beautiful," so constantly in our ears, that we well nigh lose our temper. In the earlier parts of his poem the author seeks to give an account of the creation of the world, according to the modern geological system; but he only furnishes another instance of the impossibility of combining science and poetry.

We now proceed to give a convincing proof of the identity which we have noted between Messrs. Reade and Bailey, by quoting a passage from each, and fusing them together, without the addition, subtraction, or alteration of one word—the result being a perfect unity both of subject and style:—

I looked beneath me as on waves of flame,
Upheaving mountainously, molten shapes
In seething fluctuation tossed, emerged
Or sunk again in whelming depths unseen.
I heard the wild throes of the elements,
Triad vitalities, air, water, fire,
Struggling to formative life as, scroll-like, driven,
The palpable and mighty form of Earth
Beneath me rolled, gathering a substant shape,
Semblant of human lineament. Its rocks
Chaotic and amorphous, petrified fire,
Granitic, oolitic; sand and lime;
Igneous and aquatic beds of stone,
Upheaving or collapsing, seemed, in turn,
The awful sport of some Titanian arm,
Whose elbow, joggled by earthquakes, wryed the pole.

Let the reader exercise his own ingenuity in finding out where the soldering takes place; he will have no help from us, further than to let him know that we have absolutely joined on a portion of one of Mr. Reade's lines to a fragment of one of Mr. Bailey's!

Some of Mr. Reade's minor poems exhibit occasional gleams of tenderness and melancholy grace; but he will never prosper until he gives up his frantic endeavour to wrestle with "the Infinite."

Fatigued with the said wrestlings, it is absolutely a relief to turn even to the languid little book entitled *Poems*, by Walter Whitmore Jones. (Longman and Co.) The chief of these poems is "Cupid and Psyche"—a manifest derivative from the earlier manner of Keats and Hood, with a few glimpses of the peculiar style of Shakespeare's "Venus and Adonis," faintly reflected. Mr. Jones's verses are sufficiently weak; but they are not pompous, and there is sometimes an elegant flux and murmur of words, not unpleasant to listen to when half asleep. Whether Mr. Jones will ever do better or not, is a question which depends on his years. If he be much above two or three-and-twenty, we fear he is a lost lambkin.

Much the same may be said of *Poems*, by Walter R. Cassels (Smith, Elder, and Co.)—the same, we mean, as regards Mr. Cassels' prospects for the future. He is probably a member of that large class of enthusiasts whose fate has something of pathos in it—intense devotion to poetry, combined with imperfect powers of expression.

Of *The Maid of Messene and other Poems* (Longman and Co.), we may say that Mr. Henry Pember, student of Christ Church, Oxford, their author, has a great faculty of dulness when he makes any lengthened attempt. He succeeds most in little ballads, where he lacks the opportunity to be tedious.

The Poetry of Creation, by Nicholas Michell (Chapman and Hall), is best described as a book of verses very fit to be put in the hands of youth, or to be sent as a Christmas present to country cousins of "the feminine gender." But it is not meat for men.

Mr. Sheldon Chadwick, who issues a volume of *Poems* (Bogue), has been shown by a Scottish contemporary to be an outrageous plagiarist on Mr. Alexander Smith, Mr. Gerald Massey, and others. But this is not the only charge that can be brought against him. He is a great sinner in the modern school of pompous and overwrought fustian. He works the stars unmercifully; so that not a page, and scarcely a stanza, is free from his astral comparisons. Images of the most exaggerated and preposterous character are heaped up, one over another, with utter recklessness; and anything passes current, provided it be glittering, astounding, and sonorous. His unhappy Pegasus is never allowed a moment's rest, but is beaten and spurred till he foams at the mouth. For instance, at p. 137 we are told how

Night under the silver dome of the moon
Ringeth her starry bells.

And at p. 11 we are reminded of the time "when the spheres sang o'er the bleating hills." Yet the arrantest common-place is not disdained, as the following stanza of a ballad unequalled for foolishness may show:—

Oh! my soldier-lad, my pride,
My pride, my pride!
He vow'd he would make me his bride,
His bride, his bride;
For the War he has left the shore,
And a lock of my hair he wore.

On reading this we were strongly moved to a parody:—

Oh! Mr. Chadwick, what stuff,
What stuff, what stuff!
You have surely written enough,
Enough, enough!
Of Sense you have left the shore,
And will never come back any more.

The bride, in the original ballad, thinks that her "lad" has been killed "on Alma's plain," when he suddenly steps from some inscrutable hiding-place, and announces that he "is here, is here, is here." We beg to add a final stanza—supposed to be spoken by the lovely bride:—

My lad, you never were there,
Were there, were there:
I suspect you bolted in fear,
In fear, in fear.
Get along, do, from my side,
For no longer I'll be your bride.

Versicles is the modest title given by Mr. Thomas Irwin to a collection of poems which, though possessing no great pretensions, have the rare merits of being easy, natural, and self-controlled. Some of his verses are very sweet; his measures have music in them; and he does not forget one of the essential requisites of poetry—good sense.

The Battle of the Alma, by J. W. Fletcher (Theobald); *Conqueraye, a War Idyl*, by T. Forster Ker, M.P.S. (Churchill); *Florence Nightingale, a Poem*, by John Davis; *Lays of the War*, by Michael Joseph Barry (Cork, office of the *Daily Reporter*); belong to the multitudinous spawn of war poems, and are so like their brethren in the accustomed sound and fury, that elaborate criticism would be needless severity. Of Mr. John Davis we may remark that he does not maintain the reputation of his namesake of the reign of Elizabeth, who sung of "Dancing." Although the lawyer-poet, in treating of the divine Crimean Nurse, would have indulged in conceits enough, he would not have talked of—

Sweet Nightingale, most charming bird of song.

The *Italics* are Mr. Davis's own. He fears that the joke will be missed if he call not the printer to his aid.

The Rev. Archer Gurney contributes *The Ode of Peace, à propos* to the present crisis. Mr. Gurney has a reputation of some years' standing, which it would be a pity to lose, for placid common-place, solid Toryism, and unimpeachable orthodoxy. The object of his present harmless outpouring is to beg us not to strike Russia too hard now she is down; not to take away any of her territory, nor to force her into "the posture of a slave" by compelling her to sue for peace, but kindly to assume that agreeable posture ourselves; for the essence of Russian Government (that fine paternal rule) consists in the opinion of its invincibility, and it would be a pity to destroy the lovely dream. If Russia should succeed in bamboozling us at the Conferences, we may expect to find Mr. Gurney singing an ode of triumph and thanksgiving.

THE RUSSIAN SETTLEMENTS IN SIBERIA.

Notes on the late Expedition against the Russian Settlements in Eastern Siberia. By Captain Bernard Whittingham. Longman and Co.

THE Russians set a high value on their Siberian territories. Those provinces, indeed, which appear to the popular fancy in Western Europe mere deserts of pine forests, iron-pits, and snowy plains, are among the most valuable in the empire. Instead of being the abode of eternal winter—the retreat only of wild beasts—four-fifths of them lie in the temperate zone, and are capable of cultivation. The whole of the Uralian borders are overlaid with the Black Soil which gives a name to an extensive region, and which is not less fertile than the deep loam in the Volga and Dnieper valleys. With the Amur leading from Siberia to the Pacific, caravan routes penetrating the Chinese frontier on one side, an open communication by sea with America on the other, with channels of navigation to Japan, and to all the ports of Eastern Asia, is it surprising that Russia has sedulously prepared fortresses and commercial stations along the coasts of Tartary and Siberia? Moreover, is it conceivable that when she found herself, in 1854, at war with the Power that "rules the wave," she alone possessed the key to that important region, while the English and French ships ventured timorously from cape to cape, seeking enemies and finding none? Captain Whittingham, who narrates the incidents of the North Pacific Expedition of 1855, discloses enough to set at rest the minds of those who too readily ascribed a quality the reverse of rashness to our commanders in that sea. Whether, in his own view, he exculpates them, is doubtful; but the result is this, that the allied squadron was sent into an unaverted sea to attack forts in situations perfectly unknown, and that it failed even to blockade the enemy's fleet. While the charts have been tattooed with soundings on every reef in the Chagos Archipelago, and while little cocoa-islets have been—not uselessly—examined as minutely as the British Channel, the vast Tartar Gulf has been left almost without a chart, the Sea of Okhotsk has remained almost a myth; and waters, which La Perouse spent the best years of his life in exploring, leave on the map that vacuum which the pilot abhors. Surely, in peace or war, it were well to know a little more of those important coasts, and of the maritime approaches that connect them with the Sea of Japan.

This homily is extorted by Captain Whittingham's statement, illustrated by the events he describes, that when the Allied squadron, in April last year, weighed anchor from Hong-Kong for the North Pacific, they entered on a voyage of discovery. The ships of both nations had been in that ocean, and on the Tartar and Siberian coasts the year before; they had been baffled at sea, beaten off at Petropaulovski; they had been unsuccessful; and had not even opened the way to a new enterprise. Absolutely, in the second Pacific campaign, the expedition had still to "ascertain" where the Russian positions were; how they were fortified; how far they extended; and whether it was possible to reach them.

The sole result was, that a strong light was thrown upon the progress of Russia in that region. Her fortifications in the Bay of Okhotsk were found to be planted, like those in the Baltic, within natural labyrinths; her squadron, hiding behind islets and shoals, succeeded in flying by unknown chan-

nels, or, through the fog, to harbours more secure. Though in greater force than the Allies, the Russians would not engage, and only challenged an attack, from an inaccessible position, under land batteries. Why they were permitted to escape from De Castries Bay, and to escape across narrow waters, in presence of an Allied squadron, to the River Amur, naval men may be competent to decide. As we understand, and as Captain Whittingham explains it, the failure was blameable. Yet there were collateral circumstances to be considered. Both French and English were in a strange sea, which was perfectly familiar to the Russians. While they sounded and signalled through the mist, the Russians fled. Why these waters were so obscure is another point, on which the Admiralty may be interrogated. At De Castries Bay the Russian vessels were surprised, lying within a barrier broken by practicable channels. Why were they not attacked? Because the English charts were unreliable, and because they were unprovided with the charts of La Perouse. Since that romantic navigator explored the avenues of the Sea of Okhotsk, its great fisheries and curious shores, they have only been visited by Commodore Broughton, and by a few drifting whalers.

However, since it appeared that the passage between Saghalien and the mainland, instead of being a channel, was only a gulf, and that the Russian ships, in order to gain the Amur, must come out of the narrow waters and pass round the head of the peninsula, a frigate and a corvette commenced a blockading cruise. After seven days of sentinel duty, they bore up to De Castries Bay, to make sure of their enemy. He was gone. And now the discovery was made, which a less discreet commander might have made before—that there was a clear channel inwards "for frigates and large vessels," and another to the north for smaller craft, so that the Russian squadron might have been assailed as it lay, all the day, in the bay.

The next movement was towards the Straits of La Perouse, possession of which is coveted by Russia to secure a communication between the Amur and the Kurile Islands, to advance her maritime outposts towards the Korean Channel, and towards the ports of Japan. Twice during this century has Aniwa—the citadel of the Straits—been attacked from Siberia, but the enterprise has not yet been successful. Captain Whittingham, who possesses enthusiasm and talent, desired to test the theoretical geography of the Germans, and the falsified geography of the Russians, and to penetrate from the Channel of Tartary to the gulf of the Amur; but the expedition was, from this point, fruitless and disheartening. At Anian, the new capital of the Government of Okhotsk, three slight earth batteries *en banquette* were found, constructed by seamen, to illustrate the defences before which our naval forces failed at Petropaulovski. But these were deserted. Approaching the Amur, a broad channel seemed to invite the advance of a steamer, at least. The steamer went in boldly, and after feeling its way for three miles and a-half, touched a sandbank. Various passages were attempted, but their intricacies foiled the adventure. Ultimately, the enterprise was cut short, the squadron returned to the Sea of Japan, and it was left for the Russian commanders to say that their positions in that quarter were beyond attack. Certainly, the Allies had done little to ensure success. But the British Government should learn, at last, that wherever great political and commercial interests arise, geographical and hydrographical science should follow them. Whatever may be said, the Pacific Expedition failed, because the Admiralty was ignorant. We commend to the notice of all our readers Captain Whittingham's narrative, which is replete with interest.

The Arts.

THE RIVAL WIZARDS.

NOT a hundred years ago, the two national theatres were carrying on a spirited campaign under the rival managements of GARRICK and COLMAN; in 1856, Professor ANDERSON and Mr. E. T. SMITH are engaged in amicable hostilities on the same illustrious field. Such is the progress of the British drama! The struggle is not now for the possession of the GOLD-SMITH or the POWELL, but for the most slashing counterfeit of the Wizard of the North, and the most easy and pleasant mimicry of a favourite comedian. Such was, such is, the condition of the British stage.

Professor ANDERSON's retort has had the disadvantage of hanging fire. His Corsican brother over the way had possessed the town for weeks before the retort was ready. This is a mistake which the "tremendous excitement created by *Rob Roy*" does not entirely account for. Meantime, however, that somewhat strong title, "*An Impudent Puppy*," had been exchanged for the more vague and harmless one of "*What do You Want?*" No doubt some distasteful personalities have also been expunged from the stage copy; the few that survive by no means constitute the success of the farce. That success is due to the admirable mimic powers of Mr. LEIGH MURRAY, whose personation of CHARLES MATHEWS almost, if not entirely, equals the latter's embodiment of the WIZARD. His imitations of CHARLES KEAN and of the PROFESSOR himself as ROB ROY, are equally surprising and clever: the gay dexterity and elegant vivacity with which he rattles through the performance mark real power in the actor, and keep the audience amused.

MR. MACAULAY ON LOCH-LOMOND.—In no country but England have the only means and scenes of relaxation within the reach of some million or two of people been systematically lampooned and derided. This disgraceful Insularity exists no longer. Still, some weak traces of its contemptuous spirit may occasionally be found, even in very unlikely places. The accomplished Mr. Macaulay, in the third volume of his brilliant history, writes loftily about "the thousands of clerks and milliners who are now thrown into raptures by the sight of Loch Katrine and Loch Lomond." No such responsible gentleman, in France or Germany, writing history—writing anything—would think it fine to sneer at any inoffensive and useful class of his fellow subjects. If the clerks and milliners—who pair off in arm, by thousands, for Loch Katrine and Loch Lomond, to celebrate the Early Closing Movement, we presume—will only imagine their presence poisoning those waters to the majestic historian as he roves along the banks, looking for Whig Members of Parliament to sympathise with him in admiration of the beauties of Nature, we think they will be amply avenged in the absurdity of the picture.—"*INSULARITIES.*" *Household Words.*

MARRIAGES.

OLIVER-MILL.—On Saturday, the 26th ult., at St. Mary's, Paddington, George, eldest son of the late William Oliver, Esq., of Waterhouse, Staffordshire, to Mary, youngest daughter of the late Major Mill.

QUIN-TYLER.—On Thursday, the 24th ult., at the parish church of St. Nicholas, Glamorganshire, by the Lord Bishop of Worcester, uncle to the bride, the Hon. Windham Henry Wyndham Quin late of the Grenadier Guards, to Caroline, eldest daughter of Admiral Sir George Tyler, of Cottrell, M.P. for the county.

SAYER-PHIPPS.—On Tuesday, the 29th ult., at the Royal Chapel of St. George, Windsor, by the Hon. and Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor, Captain Frederic Sayer, of the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, to Maria Henrietta Sophia, eldest daughter of Colonel the Hon. C. B. and Mrs. Phipps.

DEATHS.

ABBOTT.—On the 22nd ult., at his residence, No. 12, Upper Gloucester-place, Dorset-square, Captain Christopher Abbott, H.P.R.M., aged 79, deeply lamented by his family and friends.

BUCKLEY.—On the 30th ult., at the early age of 33, the Very Rev. Theodore Buckley, late of Christ College, Oxford.

VALENTIA.—On the 27th ult., at High Beech, France, Cockburn Viscountess Valentia.

VISMES.—On the 29th ult., at Exmouth, aged 89, the Comtesse de Vismes, widow of the late Colonel Count de Vismes of the Coldstream Guards.

WAGHORN.—On the 19th ult., at Tunbridge-wells, Mrs. Harriett Waghorn, widow of the late Lieutenant Thomas Fletcher Waghorn, aged 64.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, January 29.

BANKRUPTCY.—ALBERT MEW JUDD, Mitre Tavern, 104, Upper-street, Islington, licensed victualler—JOSEPH CLAYWORTH, 75, Gracechurch-street, City, poultryer—JOHN HENRY TRUSCOTT, 13, Sutherland-terrace, East Brixton, stationer and commission agent—JAMES FRASER, 70, Lower Thames-street, City, wine, spirit, and beer merchant—HENRY FARRAR, 45, St. Giles'-street, Norwich, upholsterer and cabinetmaker—GEORGE WELLS, Worcester, licensed victualler—GEORGE THOMAS BATE, West Bromwich, Stafford, grocer and provision merchant—BENJAMIN FARMER, Bristol, builder—SAMUEL BARNES, Oldbury, Worcester, draper—FRANCIS DRAKE, Railway Hotel, Willand, Devon, innkeeper—WILLIAM SHUTCHIFF, Loughborough and Quorndon, Leicester, manufacturer of hosiery—JAMES RYSCHEL, Gresham, Wrexham, Denbigh, builder—SAMUEL BENTLEY WOODHOUSE, Leicester, dealer in general hosiery—ROBERT HUGHES, Bury, Lancashire, paper manufacturer—EDWARD LEECH, Whittle-Woods, Lancaster, cotton spinner and manufacturer.

SCOTCH BANKRUPTCY.—NIEL STEWART, Perth, wine merchant—JOHN INNES and COMPANY, Glasgow, sewed muslin manufacturers—HENRY FERGUS, Kirkcaldy, brewer.

Friday, February 1.

BANKRUPTCY.—JAMES LOMAX, Warrington, victualler—SAMUEL BAYLEY, Macclesfield, cotton spinner—JOSEPH DIXON SELLER and THOMAS FATTISON, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, chemist—HENRY FIELD, Staverton-row, Walworth-road, grocer—JOHN SHILLBRED, Jernyn-street, tailor—RICHARD GILL and HENRY EDE, St. Thomas, Cornwall, builders—FREDERICK ROBERT WREXHAM, provision dealer—EDGAR CROWE, Colchester, boot and shoe maker—THOMAS HESLINGTON, Birmingham, straw dealer—GEORGE FORREY and JAMES STEEL, Milwall, timber merchants—CHARLES WILLIAMS, formerly of Wilby-terrace, Mile-end, and now of Whitecross Prison, tea dealer.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

London, Friday Evening, Feb. 1, 1856.

The Queen's Speech at the opening of Parliament, briefly and slovenly prepared, has disappointed the Money Market dealers. Hints of heavy bills to pay, and the utter omission of the United States, does not look to the Bulls at all promising. Meanwhile, during the week Consols have been very high. Large Bear operators have closed their accounts, and this has given the Market an upward appearance. Real heavy sales, and the Hebrew party realising profits on their Bull transactions. The extraordinary dearthness of money, the vast speculations going on in all the Foreign Stocks and general Share Markets, have had the effect of neutralising the rise. Yesterday, at one o'clock, Consols were 91½. Immediately after the Royal Speech was published the prices were lower. The discussion last night on the Address in the two Houses of Parliament, and the admission of Lord Clarendon that he doubted the sincerity of Russia, has brought in sellers. The markets at 12 o'clock to day is 90½. Turkish Stock is 1 per cent. lower, but it keeps up better than usual, owing to a great amount having been taken off the market. In shares the prices are lower, particularly in Great Northern Stock, despite of the boasted anticipatory dividend of 61 per cent. per annum.

The settlement on shares which took place yesterday has been a very heavy one, but it is gratifying to think that, notwithstanding the sudden rise in all descriptions of securities, in some cases 10 and 12 per cent. in one account, that only three small failures have occurred. The Consol settling is looked for next week with considerable interest and some anxiety, as it is well known the losses of the Bears must be very heavy. Meantime, the flatness in Consols has checked the reckless speculation for a rise that has prevailed during the last ten days. It is very possible that the settling account will send Consols down to 89½. The American difficulty causes some uneasiness, but at present does not affect the markets especially.

In heavy Shares, Great Western, Birmingham, and Dover's are very buoyant; Eastern Counties are firmer. Canada Shares are all well held, and are only a shade lower, owing to the dearthness of money.

The next point of interest will be the requirements of the Chancellor of the Exchequer—probably a small loan—and if so, the Hebrews, who have always timely warning, show their sense in depreciating the price of Consols, that the loan may be taken at a low figure. It would be a popular measure to open it, as in France, to all the nation to subscribe; whether right in the politico economical point of view, is another question.

This afternoon the Market is firmer: heavy Share Market particularly good; and business very brisk. Consols leave off 90½, 91, for February 28th, Account; Turkish 64, 63, 93½, 100, 101.

MR. GEORGE PALMER AND THE PRESS.—Mr. George Palmer (brother to the prisoner Palmer) intends, it is said, to bring actions for libel against some journals that have inserted rumours prejudicial to his character in connexion with an insurance transaction. The facts, as stated by Mr. George Palmer, are as follows:—Mr. George Palmer purchased for £75, as an investment, the life interest of a person named Mottram, in a small property at Alrewas, and expended £15 in repairs. He insured the interest, in due course of business, for £100, in the Scottish Amicable, that office having an agent, Mr. George Smith, at Rugeley. Although it is true that Mottram having died after one premium only had been paid, Mr. George Palmer recovered the £100, yet, with interest, premium, and expenses, this amounted to no more than repaid to him the sum invested. It happened, also, about the same period, that Mrs. Palmer, the mother of the Rev. Thomas Palmer, had bargained, under the advice of Mr. George Palmer, her son, acting as her solicitor, to purchase, as a provision for the rev. gentleman, the reversion of a living for £5,000. The incumbent was seventy years of age; but, as is usual in all such cases, it would have been necessary to take precautions, in case of the death of the Rev. Thos. Palmer before that of the incumbent, that the investment should not be lost. An inquiry, therefore, was made of the agent of the Scottish Amicable as to terms; but this went no farther, nor were any proposals sent in, because the bargain went off from the vendor's inability to make out what Mr. George Palmer could advise upon as a good title for the purchase.

Miss THOMASINA ROSS.—Her Majesty, on the recommendation of the Premier, has conferred a pension of £50 on Miss Thomasina Ross, known for her long connexion with literature, and her translations from the French, German, and Spanish.

THE BANKRUPTCY OF WILLIAM PALMER.—The appeal in the matter of the adjudication of a fiat of bankruptcy against William Palmer, the surgeon of Rugeley, came on for hearing before the Commissioner in the Birmingham District Court of Bankruptcy on Monday. The adjudication was disputed on technical grounds, having reference chiefly to the bankrupt not having had sufficient time allowed him to appear against the original petition. Mr. Commissioner Balguy was clearly of opinion that he was bound to hear the bankrupt against the validity of the adjudication. It was then annulled; and a fresh petition presented, which the court refused to open.

THE LATE POISONING CASES.—At the close of a lecture delivered on Monday evening at the Bristol Philosophical Institution, Mr. William Herapath, the eminent analytical chemist and professor of toxicology, took the opportunity of advertizing to the state of alarm which had been produced in the public mind by the recent alleged secret poisonings at Rugeley, Manchester, and elsewhere. The apprehensions which the cases to which he had referred had given rise had, he said, been much increased by certain statements which had been put forth, and which as he understood them, were these—that prussic acid could not be discovered in the system at more than fourteen days, that strychnia could only be detected a few hours after death, and that cocculus indicus could not be detected at all. Now he had himself detected the presence of prussic acid in a human body after an interval of two months; he had found cocculus indicus in dead fishes and in a human body after it had been buried for ten months. The difficulties in the way of detecting poisons of this class were not, therefore, so insurmountable as some supposed; and he hoped that the knowledge of the fact would have the effect of reassuring the public mind.

CRIME IN IRELAND AND ENGLAND.—Archbishop Cullen, in a recent pastoral, calls attention to the small amount of crime now to be observed in Ireland, (especially the Roman Catholic parts), and the large amount which disgraces England; deducing therefrom a moral in favour of Catholicism. In contrast with the bitter tone of this document may be mentioned an article in the papistical organ, the *Cork Southern Reporter*, formerly a physical force Repeal paper, the writer of which says that Ireland's quarrel with England is at an end, owing to the recent acts of Imperial justice. "One fair concession blots from an Irishman's memory the remembrance of fifty injuries."

ANOTHER SCANDAL FROM THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—The Rev. W. A. Weguelin, of South Stoke, brother to a Director of the Bank of England, has given up his living, and gone over to the Church of Rome.

Mr. BAZALGETTE has been appointed engineer to the Metropolitan Board of Works.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

BRIGHT.—On the 27th ult., at One Ash, Rochdale, the wife of John Bright, M.P., a daughter.

HOARE.—On the 27th ult., at Westfield, Kingston, Mrs. Thomas Hoare, two daughters.

HOLMESDALE.—On Wednesday, the 30th ult., in Grosvenor-street, the Viscountess Holmesdale, a son.

HOME.—On the morning of the 27th ult., at Sandhurst, Hants, prematurely, the wife of Capt. G. S. Home, 5th Fusiliers, and Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster-General Camp at Aldershot, a daughter.

Aberdeen, 25, 7; Bristol and Exeter, 24, 6; Caledonian, 24, 2; Chester and Holyhead, 12, 13; East Anglian, 23, 4; Eastern Counties, 21, 1; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 22, 4; Great Northern, 21, 2; Ditto, A stock, 78, 40; Ditto B stock, 124, 125; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 104, 105; Great Western, 24, 1; Lancashire and Carlisle, 78, 8; Ditto, Third, 64, 74 pm; Ditto, new Third, 64, 71 pm; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 21, 2; London and Blackwall, 64, 3; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 27, 3; London and North Western, 92, 100; Ditto South Ditto, 94, 6; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 25, 4; Metropolitan, 4, 4 dis; Midland, 62, 70; Ditto, Birmingham and Derby, 42, 2; Newport, Abergevenny, and Hereford, 10, 11; North British, 30, 31; North Eastern (Berwick), 73, 41; Do, Extension, 7, 4 dis; Ditto, Great North Eastern purchase, 44, 34 dis; Ditto, Leeds, 134, 144; Ditto, York, 48, 51; North Staffordshire, 8, 74 dis; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 22, 4; Scottish Central, 104, 106; Scottish Midland, 74, 6; South Devon, 12, 13; South Eastern (Dover), 614, 24; South Wales, 68, 70; Vale of Neath, 19, 20; West Cornwall, 4, 6; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 71, 8; Ardennes, Eastern of France, Paris and Strasbourg, 37, 1; East India, 21, 31; Ditto Extension, 1, 8 pm; Grand Trunk of Canada, 10, 9 dis; Great Indian Peninsula, 20, 2; Luxemburg, 51, 1; Great Western of Canada, 25, 6; North of France, 36, 74; Paris and Lyons, 48, 4; (Paris and Orleans, 49, 50; Hambro and Meuse, 24, 2; Western and N.W. of France, 32, 33; Agua Fria, —; Australian, 4, 4; Brazil Imperial, 14, 31; Cacao, 13, 24; St. John del Rey, 27, 2.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, Feb. 1, 1856.

Since Monday the supplies of Wheat from abroad have been moderate, but the trade remains in a most inanimate state, and the little business doing has been at about former rates. Barley, Oats, and Beans have each declined a trifle since our last report, and the trade continues in a stagnant condition.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
Bank Stock	2004	2005	211	212	213	2111
3 per Cent. Reduced	91	92	92	91	91	91
3 per Cent. Con. An.	90	91	91	91	90	90
Consols for Account	91	91	91	91	91	90
New 3 per Cent. An.	91	92	92	91	91	91
New 2½ per Cent.	78	77	77	77	77	77
Long Ans. 1850	31	31	31	31	31	31
India Stock	221	221	214	224	224	224
Ditto Bonds, £1000	3 dis.	2 dis.	5 dis.	7 dis.	7 dis.	7 dis.
Ditto, under £1000	6 dis.	6 dis.	6 dis.	6 dis.	6 dis.	7 dis.
Ex Billa, £1000	64	64	64	64	64	10 dis
Ditto, £500	6 dis.	6 dis.	6 dis.	6 dis.	6 dis.	par
Ditto, Small	6 dis.	6 dis.	6 dis.	6 dis.	6 dis.	44 pm

FOREIGN FUNDS.

(LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING FRIDAY EVENING.)

Brazilian Bonds	102	Portuguese 5 per Cents.	106
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents	102	Russian Bonds, per Cents	106
Chilian 6 per Cents	102	Russian 4½ per Cents	93
Dutch 2½ per Cents	65	Spanish	43
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif	97	Spanish Committee Cert. of Comp. not fun	43
Equador Bonds	201	Turkish 5 per Cents	101
Mexican Account	201	Peruvian New, 4 ditto	101
Peruvian 4 per Cents	201	Venezuela, 1½ per Cents	13

DEAFNESS AND NOISES IN THE HEAD.

Free of Charge, for the Protection and Instant Relief of the Deaf. A Book of 30 pages.—An extraordinary Discovery.—Just published, sent free by post to any deaf person writing for it, "A STOP TO EMPIRICISM AND EXORBITANT FEES." Sufferers extremely deaf, by means of this book, permanently cure themselves, in any distant part of the world, without pain or use of any instrument. Thousands have been restored to perfect hearing, and for ever rescued from the snares of the numerous advertising, dangerous, unqualified pretenders of the present day. It contains lists of startling cures, published by Dr. F. R. HOGHTON, Member of the London Royal College of Surgeons, May 2, 1845; L.A.C. April 30, 1846; Consulting Surgeon to the Institution for the Cure of Deafness, 5, Suffolk-place, Pall Mall, London, where all letters are to be addressed. Personal consultations every day between 11 and 4 o'clock. Sufferers deaf 40 or 50 years have their hearing perfectly restored in half an hour, without a moment's inconvenience. Testimonials and certificates can be seen from all the leading members of the faculty and from patients cured.

In the High Court of Chancery.

TRIESEMAR.—On the 29th of May, 1855, an Injunction was granted by the High Court of Chancery, and on the 11th of June following was made perpetual, against Joseph Franklin and others, to restrain them, under a penalty of £1,000, from imitating this medicine, which is protected by Royal Letters Patent of England, and secured by the seals of the Ecole de Pharmacie de Paris, and the Imperial College of Medicine, Vienna. Trieseemar, No. 1, is a remedy for Relaxation, Spermatorrhea, and all the distressing consequences arising from early abuse, &c. and its effects are efficacious in youth, manhood, and old age; and to those persons who are prevented entering the married state from the results of early errors it is invaluable. Trieseemar, No. 2, effectually, in the short space of three days, completely and entirely eradicates all traces of those disorders which capivati and cuberi have so long been thought an antidote for, to the ruin of the health of a vast portion of the population. Trieseemar, No. 3, is the great Continental remedy for that class of disorders which unfortunately the English physician treats with mercury, to the inevitable destruction of the patient's constitution, and which all the emmenapatics in the world cannot remove. Trieseemar, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, are alike devoid of taste or smell, and of all nauseating qualities. They may lie on the toilet table without their use being suspected.—Trieseemar, No. 1, 2, 3, are sold in tin cases, price 11s., or four cases in one for 35s., which saves 11s.; and in 45 cases, whereby there is a saving of £1 12s.; divided into separate doses, as administered by Valpeau, Lallemand, Roux, &c. To be had wholesale and retail in London, of Johnson, 68, Cornhill; in Glasgow, of Co., 63, Oxford-street; and Sanger, 150, Oxford-street; R. H. Ingham, druggist, 46, Market-street, Manchester; H. Bradbury, bookseller, Deansgate, Bolton; J. Priestly, chemist, 52, Lord-street, Liverpool; Powell, bookseller, 15, Westmoreland-street, Dublin; Winnall, bookseller, High-street, Birmingham.

THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT GARDEN.—**ROB ROY** and **BLACK-EYED SUSAN**. Last Night of the Great Pantomime. The most successful and the most costly ever produced. Close of the Dramatic Season, owing to the Theatre being required for the opening of the Royal Italian Opera. On **MONDAY, February 4th**, **ROB ROY**, with its magnificent scenery and celebrated choral accompaniments. **Rob Roy**, Professor Anderson; **Helen McGregor**, Mrs. J. W. Wallack. **ROB ROY** will be repeated on Friday. **TUESDAY, February 5th**, Douglas Jerrold's celebrated Drama of **BLACK-EYED SUSAN** will be produced, being the first time it has been played at this Theatre for 37 years. William, by Professor Anderson. **BLACK-EYED SUSAN** will be repeated on Thursday and Saturday. The performances to conclude each evening with the Pantomime of **Ys BELLE ALLIANCE**, or **Ys FIZLOU** or **Ys CLOTHUS** or **GOLDS**. Being positively the Last Eight Nights of the Pantomime, which has surpassed all Pantomimes in its attractiveness, its splendour, and the expense at which it has been produced. 250,000 persons have already paid to see it. On the stage every night in one scene only there are 419 performers. The production by Professor Anderson was at an outlay of nearly £7,000, and the Appointments are of a character unlike any for their richness that have been put upon the stage at any Pantomime at any time. Notwithstanding its astounding and extraordinary success, it cannot positively be represented more than Eight times, the Theatre being required. On **MONDAY, February 11**, and **TUESDAY, February 12**, the **GREAT WIZARD'S** Great Carnival **BENEFIT**, on each of which occasions the Theatre will be open from Noon till Midnight. Doors open at Half past Six. Commence at Seven. The Box-office is open daily from 11 till 5, under the direction of Mr. O'REILLY. Private Boxes (which may be also taken at the Libraries), £3 3s., £2 2s., £1 1s., and 12s.; Grand Balcony, 4s., Upper Boxes, 2s. 6d., Amphitheatre Stalls, 2s., Pit, 2s., Gallery, 1s. Second Price at Nine o'clock.

MADAME JENNY GOLDSCHMIDT-LIND.
HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS.

MR. MITCHELL respectfully announces that **M. and Madame GOLDSCHMIDT'S** **THIRD MISCELLANEOUS CONCERT** is fixed to take place at the Hanover-square Rooms, on Monday Evening, February 11th.
Conductor, **M. BENEDICT**.
Stalls (numbered and reserved), one guinea. Doors open at Seven; to commence at Eight o'clock precisely.
Programmes of the Concert may be obtained at **MR. MITCHELL'S** Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.—Lessee, **MR. ALFRED WIGAN**.
Monday, and during the week (Ash Wednesday excepted), **THE JEALOUS WIFE**. Characters by Messrs. E. Vining, Emery, Leslie, F. Vining, Danvers, White, Franks, Coney, Mrs. Stirling, Miss Castleton, Miss Marston, and Miss Bromley. **THE DISCREET PRINCESS**; or, **THE THREE GLASS DISTAFFS**. Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, Emery, Danvers, H. Cooper, Clifton, J. H. White; Misses Julia St. George, Terman, Marston, Maskell, Maynard, and Stephens. Commence at Half-past Seven.

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